BLUE BIRD

R13WS

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

NHTSA NO. 13V-577 NON-SCHOOL BUSES
NHTSA NO. 13V-579 SCHOOL BUSES

December 18, 2013

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This important safety recall notice applies to your buses identified by both Blue Bird Body Number and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the enclosed yellow cover sheet.

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Blue Bird Body Company has decided that certain 2014 and 2015 model year All American and conventional "Vision" model school and non-school buses manufactured from August 14, 2013 through November 16, 2013 and equipped with Indiana Mills and Manufacturing Inc. (IMMI) L9 model driver's seat belt buckles fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 209 "Seat Belt Assemblies", S4.4 "Requirements for Performance".

Due to a defect in manufacturing, the seat belt buckle may not release as required by FMVSS 209, S4.4. This condition could increase the risk of injury to the driver in the event of a vehicle crash. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this noncompliance.

Buses equipped with the suspect IMMI L9 model driver's seat belt **must have the belt buckle date code, inspected** according to the enclosed "L9 Seat Belt Buckle Inspection Guide". Date codes found within the defective date code range of either 13220 through 13256 or date code range of 214 13 through 256 13 must be removed and replaced with new driver's seat belt buckles.

The enclosed R13WS Recall Inspection Sheet must be completed and returned to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid reply envelope to verify driver's seat belt buckle date code has been examined.

Replacement belt buckles, if required, will be shipped to the address provided on the R13WS Recall Inspection Sheet. Be sure to provide a valid shipping address as UPS does not deliver to P.O. Boxes.

If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the **yellow** cover sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid reply envelope.

You may contact your Blue Bird dealer to arrange to have this recall performed. Or, if you prefer, you may perform this recall yourself or have a qualified repair facility convenient to you perform this recall. A qualified technician should perform this recall.

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY
P.O. Box 937 – 402 Blue Bird Blvd – Fort Valley, Georgia – (478) 825-2021

BLUE BIRD

Labor time to inspect and record the date code on the IMMI L9 model driver's seat belt buckle is 0.1 hours (6 minutes) per bus.

Labor time to inspect and record the date code on the IMMI L9 model driver's seat belt buckle and install a new belt buckle, if needed, on belts with the buckle attached to the driver's seat is 0.3 (18 minutes) hours per bus.

Labor time to inspect and record the date code on the IMMI L9 model driver's seat belt buckle and install a new belt buckle, if needed, on belts with the buckle attached to the floor is 0.5 hours (30 minutes) per bus.

Reimbursement for labor may be obtained by completing the pink **"Labor Reimbursement"** sheet provided and returning it to Blue Bird in the enclosed **pink** postage prepaid reply envelope.

Check column "A" on the pink reply sheet if date code inspection only was performed.

Check column "B" on the pink reply sheet if both date code inspection and a replacement belt buckle was installed.

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the pink recall reply sheet and attach a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the pink self-addressed postage prepaid reply envelope included with the recall notification to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

ADMINISTRATOR
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

Or, you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236 TTY 1-800-424-9153 Or, go to: HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Sincerely,

B. D Coleman

Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company

Recall R13WS Recall Inspection Form
Driver's Seat Belt Buckle FMVSS 209 Noncompliance

Blue Bird Body Number	Date Inspected	Belt Buckle Date Code	Seat Type Air or Standard	Date Replaced

Driver's seat belt buckle date code Inspection performed by:

School or Company Name

Address

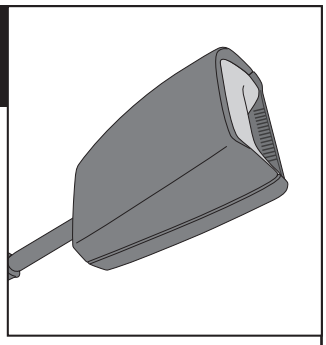
City, State, ZIP

Signature

Print Name

Telephone Number

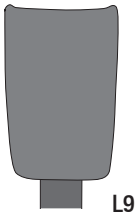
L9 SEAT BELT BUCKLE INSPECTION GUIDE



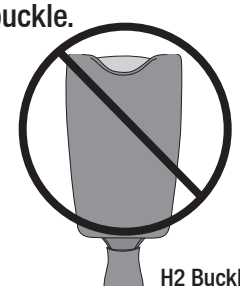
Follow these instructions to determine if your L9 seat belt buckle needs to be replaced.

1) Verify you have an IMMI buckle by looking for the IMMI logo on the back housing.

2) Verify you have an IMMI L9 buckle.



L9 Buckle



H2 Buckle

C2 Buckle

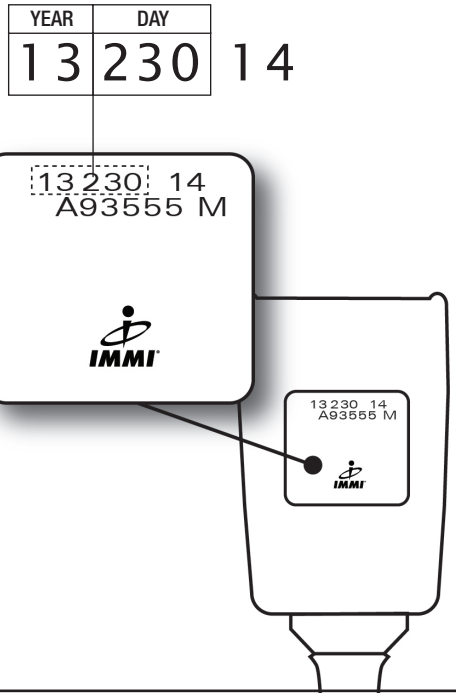
3) Find the buckle assembly date code on the back housing of the buckle.

4) There are 2 different date code formats as illustrated below.

SALTILLO MEXICO

Suspect code range is

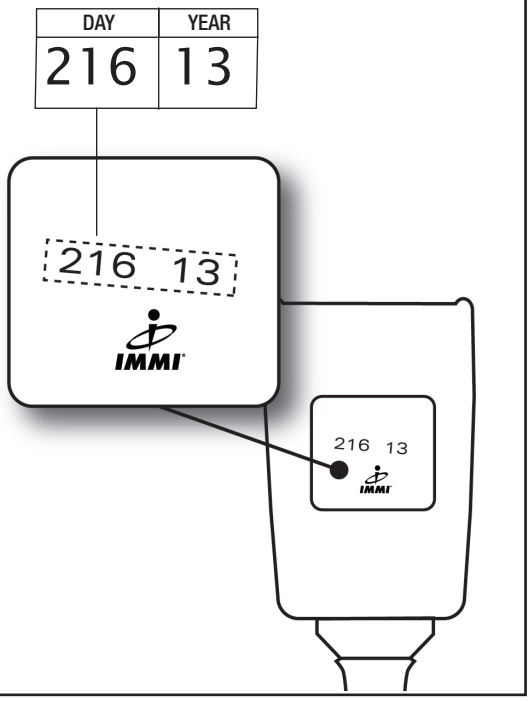
13220 through 13256



WESTFIELD, IN US

Suspect code range is

214 13 through 256 13



5) If your buckle code is within either of the ranges above, replace your buckle with the substitute buckle.

6) If your code does **NOT** fall within either range, you do **NOT** need to replace your buckle.

IMMI®

fieldservice@imminet.com
317-867-8496

Driver's Seat Belt Buckle Noncompliance

RECALL

Models Affected: Certain 2014 and 2015 Model Year "All-American" and "Vision"

R13WS

RECALL CAMPAIGN

ISSUE

Due to a manufacturing defect in the IMMI L9 model driver's seat belt buckle the buckle may not release as required by FVMSS 209 "Seat Belt Assemblies" S4.4 "Requirements for Assembly Performance".

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Inspect for defective date code range of seat belt buckle. Record and return date code ranges found. If within defective date code range, replace with new belt buckle.

PROCEDURE

WARNING: Always follow all Federal, State, Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment when performing these procedures.

INSPECTION PROCEDURE

1. See enclosed "IMMI L9 Seat Belt Buckle Inspection Guide" and follow the procedures provided.

   If the driver's seat belt buckle date code is not within the defective date code ranges of 13220 through 13256 or 214 13 through 256 13, no further action is required. Complete and return the R13WS Recall Inspection Form to verify date codes found.

2. If replacement belt buckles are required, based on defective date codes, replacement buckles will be shipped to the address provided on the Recall R13WS Inspection Form. Replacement buckles will be shipped to you "no charge" via UPS.

Driver's Seat Belt
Buckle Noncompliance

RECALL

R 1 3 W S

RECALL CAMPAIGN

BELT BUCKLE REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE A

(For buses equipped with buckle mounted to driver's seat)

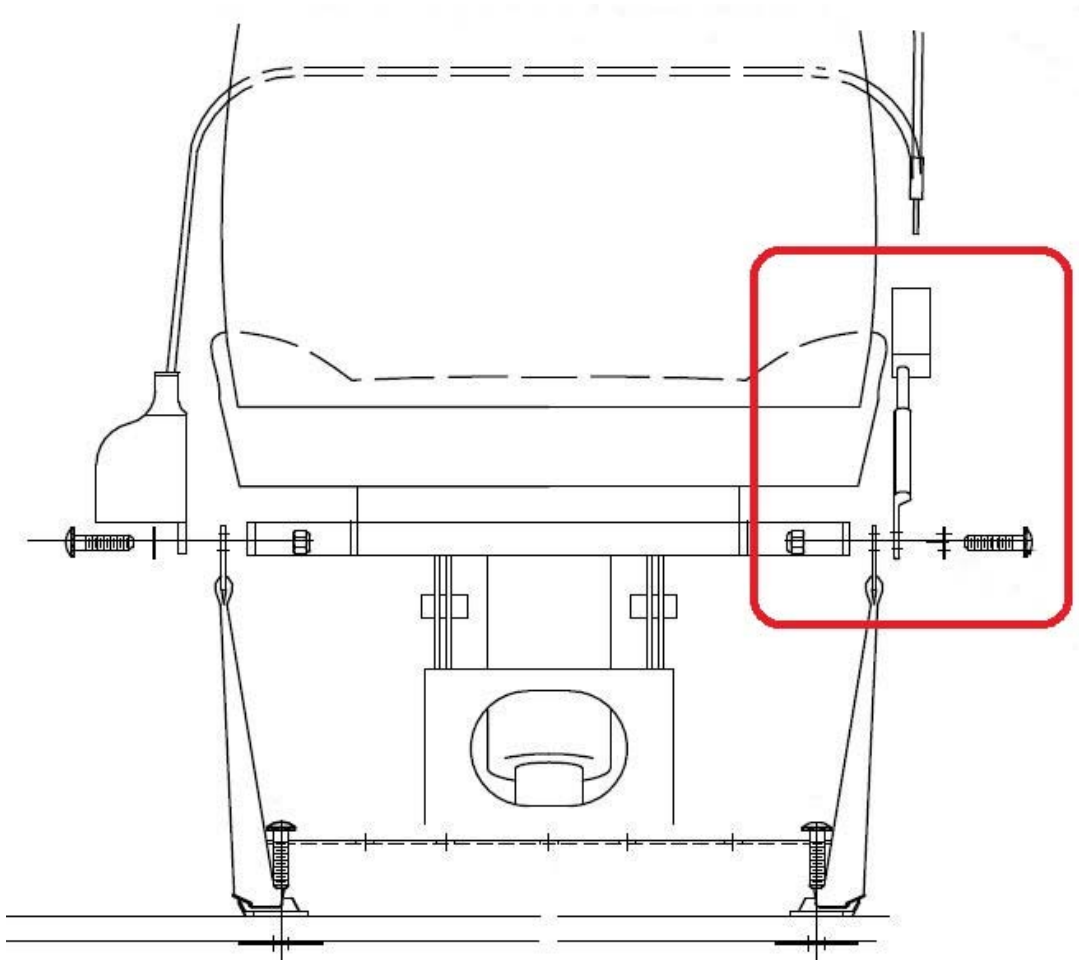
WARNING: Always follow all Federal, State, Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment, and thoroughly read and understand all instructions before performing these procedures.

1. Park the bus on a level surface, apply parking brakes, remove ignition key.

2. Locate driver's seat belt buckle on right side of driver's seat. Remove and retain the 7/16" bolt securing the buckle to the seat frame. Discard the lock nut and buckle.

3. Install new buckle with new lock nut and torque to 37-41 ft- lbs. Verify belt tongue locks securely into buckle.

Reference installation drawing below as viewed from the rear of the driver's seat.



BELT BUCKLE REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE B

(For buses equipped with buckle mounted to floor)

WARNING: Always follow all Federal, State, Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment, and thoroughly read and understand all instructions before performing these procedures.

1. Park the bus on a level surface, apply parking brakes, remove ignition key, and chock wheels.

2. Locate driver's seat belt buckle on right side of driver's seat. Remove and retain the 7/16" bolt securing the buckle to the floor of the bus. Discard the lock nut and buckle.

3. Install new buckle with new lock nut and torque to 37-41 ft-lbs. Verify the buckle is routed through the cable stay and belt tongue locks securely into buckle.

Reference installation drawing below as viewed from the rear of the driver's seat.