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By Recall Management Division at 11:09 am, Mar 11, 2014

14V-110  
(3 pages)

March 11, 2014

Ms. Nancy Lewis  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis,

In accordance with the requirements of CFR 49 Part 573.6 Blue Bird Body Company is submitting the attached defect report.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on March 11, 2014.

If you should have any questions concerning the information submitted, please contact me at 478-822-2242.

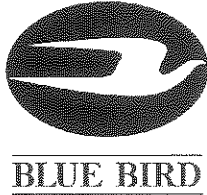
Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Coleman".

Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator

Enclosure:

49 CFR Part 573.6 Defect Report for Recall R14XC Wheelhouse to Body Gusset Panel Joint Noncompliance



49 CFR, PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

**Noncompliance Report**

**Report Date:** March 11, 2014

**1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:**

Blue Bird Corporation  
P. O. Box 937  
Fort Valley, GA 31030

**2. The following vehicles are being recalled:**

Certain 2014 model year Blue Bird Vision and All American model school buses manufactured from January 21, 2013 through February 28, 2013.

**3. The total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the noncompliance are:**

526

**4. The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the noncompliance is:**

20%

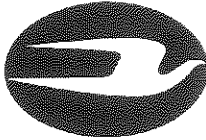
**5. The noncompliance consists of:**

The joint between the rear wheelhousing and body gusset panel may have partially separated during the manufacturing process.

**6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the noncompliance:**

In September 2013 Blue Bird received a report from a dealer of a gap at the right rear wheelhouse to body gusset panel joint on some buses. Further inspection of the gap indicated a partial separation of the rear wheelhouse to body panel joint had occurred. These buses were then repaired.

Further field inspections in the area were scheduled for potential separation of the rear wheelhousing to body gusset panel joint. Inspection of all subject model buses on site at Blue Bird's manufacturing facility in Fort Valley was also initiated.



## BLUE BIRD

In January 2014 Blue Bird also initiated a review of its manufacturing process related to the wheelhouse and body gusset panel joint.

In February of 2014 the inspection was completed of delivered buses.

On February 28, 2014 the review of the manufacturing process was completed. The review found that during the body to chassis mounting process buses equipped without optional rubber fenders may have been placed under undue strain at the wheelhouse to body gusset panel joint which could potentially result in partial separation of the subject joint.

Partial separation of the rear wheelhouse to body gusset panel joint may result in a failure to comply with FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements.

On March 06, 2014 Blue Bird decided to conduct a recall to correct this noncompliance.

### **7. The noncompliance will be corrected in the following manner:**

Affected buses will be inspected for potential separation of the rear wheelhouse to body gusset panel joint. Buses found with any separation will have a two part adhesive applied and mechanical fasteners installed to ensure the joint complies with FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements.

### **8. Notification will be as follows:**

Blue Bird dealer notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on or about April 11, 2014.  
Blue Bird owner notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on or about April 11, 2014.  
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

### **9. Blue Bird's identification number assigned to this recall is:**

R14XC

### **10. Dealer and Owner notification:**

A draft copy of the notification documents will be submitted to NHTSA for review prior to mailing.

### **Questions regarding this recall should be directed to:**

William P. Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
Blue Bird Corporation  
P.O. Box 937  
Fort Valley GA 31030  
(478) 822-2242

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*William P. Coleman*

William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator