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14V-436
(3 pages)

49 CFR, PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report-School Bus

Report Date: July 18, 2014

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

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

2. The defective component was manufactured by:

CIRCOR Aerospace, Inc.
2301 Wardlow Circle
Corona, CA 92880

David H. Coburn is Outside Counsel and contact for CIRCOR. Mr. Coburn may be reached at 202-429-8063.

Pressure relief devices were sold by CIRCOR under the brand name: Circle Seal Controls (Circle Seal).

3. The following vehicles are being recalled:

Certain Blue Bird All American rear engine school buses manufactured (on-rubber) from July 21, 2011 through April 30, 2014 and equipped with CNG fuel systems and delivered in the following states identified as a "Cold Weather" state; Colorado, Pennsylvania, Utah, Wyoming.

4. The total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect are:

Approximately 32 school buses

5. The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is:

100%

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY

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

6. The defect consists of:

The defect is the failure at low temperature of an O-ring contained in the CNG tank pressure relief device (PRD). The failure is due to the O-rings being made from a rubber compound that was not designed for use at very low temperatures. The O-rings function properly at temperatures above -5 degrees F as long as a user does not run the vehicle until the CNG tank is completely empty. Test conducted by Circle Seal indicate that if the CNG tank is completely emptied the O-ring is therefore no longer subject to any pressure, the O-ring can fail at temperatures of 20 degrees F and below when the tank is being refilled from a completely empty state.

The failure of the O-ring allows compressed natural gas to leak from the fuel tank into the surrounding atmosphere. A safety issue can arise if a vehicle with a leak is parked in a garage or other closed environment. In this setting, a leakage could lead to build up of CNG in the enclosed structure, which could in turn create fire or explosion hazard in the presence of an ignition source.

The defect notification filed by CIRCOR Aerospace, Inc dated April 10, 2014 (NHTSA 14E-013) is incorporated herein by reference.

7. The following data is the basis for the determination of the defect.

On June 10, 2014 Blue Bird received an inquiry regarding a recall posting by NHTSA concerning a recall on pressure relief devices installed on CNG tanks. Blue Bird immediately contacted our CNG tank supplier Worthington Industries regarding applicability of this recall to the pressure relief devices installed on the CNG tanks Worthington supplied to Blue Bird.

On June 24, 2014 Blue Bird received a listing of CNG tank serial numbers from Worthington Industries of CNG tanks they supplied to Blue Bird that may be equipped with the subject pressure relief devices being recall.

On July 15, 2014 Blue Bird decided to conduct a voluntary recall on the subject Blue Bird buses equipped with CNG fuel systems that may have the recalled pressure relief devices installed on the CNG tanks.

8. The defect will be corrected in the following manner:

The original pressure relief device with O-ring will be removed and replaced with a new pressure relief device and new O-ring at no charge to affected owners.

9. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about August 18, 2014.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about August 18, 2014.

As stated in CIRCOR's defect notification, Circle Seal is working toward producing sufficient PRD's to handle the anticipated demand for replacement and expects that it will have sufficient inventory to satisfy that demand by the fall of 2014.

10. Blue Bird's identification number assigned to this recall is:

R14XH

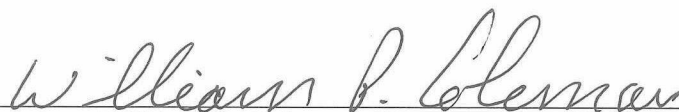
11. Dealer and Owner Notification:

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 Body Company
P.O. Box 937
Fort Valley GA 31030
(478) 822-2242

Signed: _____



William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator