



R16YR

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

**NHTSA RECALL NO. 16V-408 SCHOOL BUS
NHTSA RECALL NO. 16V-405 NON-SCHOOL BUS**

DATE: JUNE 27, 2016
TO: U.S. DEALERS
SUBJECT: RECALL R16YR, RICON WHEELCHAIR LIFT LINK ARM PIVOT HOLES
Noncompliance: FMVSS 404, Platform Lift Installations

Dear Blue Bird Dealer:

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

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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle exists in certain Blue Bird school bus and non-school bus models identified below equipped with a Ricon S-Series S2005 and S5510 model platform wheelchair lifts.

2015 through 2017 model year All American School Bus
2015 through 2017 model year Vision School Bus
2015 through 2017 model year All American Non-School Bus
2016 through 2017 model year Vision Non-School Bus

On certain school and non-school buses equipped with a Ricon S-Series Model Wheelchair Lifts, the platform could potentially crack due to bent knuckle link arms and/or defective bearing. Under certain conditions present in some applications, the platforms included on the S-Series Model Wheelchair Lifts (S2005 and S5510) can exhibit cracking of the platform pivot plate while in the stowed position. If left unchecked, a crack can propagate to the point where separation of the rear portion of the pivot plate occurs rendering the lift potentially inoperable and possibly unsafe for the operator. In the event the crack occurs on both sides of the platform and is allowed to propagate to the point of material separation on both sides, it is possible for the lift platform to lean against the vehicle lift door and fall out of the vehicle when the door is opened putting the lift operator at risk. If the holes in the folding link arms were not manufactured to the specifications, it is possible that the bearing can move out of position. This in turn allows a substantial amount of free play in a stowed platform. This free play allows an increased load to be applied to the platform mounting and can cause it to fail, increasing the risk of injury to the lift operator.

The link arms should be inspected for damage or bearings moved out of position. Inspect the platform for any signs of cracking or failure. If damage to the link arm or the platform exists, replacement link arms and/or platform will be supplied by Ricon Corporation. Ricon will provide parts required to remedy the issue at no cost. The Ricon recall number is 16E-020.

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

A printout will be sent to you with the body numbers and VINs of the buses that were delivered in your service area which may have the subject lifts installed.

If you are not an authorized Ricon dealer or service center, the nearest Ricon dealer/service center may be located by visiting Ricon Corporation's website www.riconcorp.com and selecting "Dealer Locator" at the bottom left of Ricon's home page. **You may also contact Ricon Customer Service at (800) 322-2884 or (818) 267-3000. You may contact Corey Thomas, Engineering Manager, cotomas@wabtec.com or (818) 267-3016 with specific technical questions. Owners will need to make an appointment with the local Ricon Dealer to have the lift inspected and repaired.**

It is the dealers responsibility to verify that the correct owner name, address, and telephone number is provided for each listed vehicle. Any corrections or updates should be made on BBOND. Addresses that cannot be updated on BBOND should be forwarded to the Recall Administrator.

If you have in your possession or have sold a vehicle that was purchased from another dealer that may be affected by this recall, please notify me at 478-822-2242.

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

Dealers are reminded of their responsibilities under Section 154 of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1991. Dealers are required to complete modifications or repairs on units in their inventory before delivering to the final owner. Reference Blue Bird Body Company Distributor Memo No. 42-92.

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at lisa.hancock@blue-bird.com

Regards,

Lisa Hancock

Lisa Hancock
Corporate Recall Administrator
402 Blue Bird Blvd.
Fort Valley, GA 31030
Phone: 478-822-2242
lisa.hancock@blue-bird.com