



R16YK

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

NHTSA Recall Number: 16V-006 School Bus

January 28, 2016

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

**Subject: RECALL R16YK, Transpec Stop Arm
Non-Compliance FMVSS 131 – School Bus Pedestrian Safety Devices**

This important safety recall notice applies to your bus(es) 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 2016 and 2017 model year Vision and All American model school buses manufactured from May 8, 2015 through November 9, 2015 fail to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard FMVSS Number 131, “School Bus Pedestrian Safety Devices”.

On subject buses equipped with certain Transpec Stop Arms (Part Numbers T6000, T6100, and T7000) the “Stop” decals may not remain adhered to the plastic blade. Failure of the decal either in part or in total may cause the reflective surface to not meet FMVSS 131 Standard. Without a reflective decal, the Stop Arms would have reduced visibility to other drivers, increasing the risk of a crash.

To correct this condition, the Specialty Manufacturing, Incorporated (SMI) Transpec Stop Arm Blade must be removed and replaced with a new FMVSS 131 compliant Transpec Stop Arm Blade. The replacement part will be based on the Stop Arm Part Number. **The Stop Arm Blade Assembly replacement must be conducted in accordance with the outlined work instructions that meets the FMVSS 131 requirements.** Repair parts for this recall are currently available at no cost to you by using the enclosed Specialty Manufacturing Incorporated’s Transpec Recall Form.

Buses with this non-compliance must be corrected immediately according to the enclosed instructions for Recall R16YK.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by this recall are identified by both Blue Bird Body Number(s) and Vehicle Identification Number(s) (VIN) on the enclosed yellow reply sheets. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the yellow reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

Blue Bird recommends that you contact your local or nearest Blue Bird Dealer to arrange for this recall to be performed. The Dealer can perform the repairs, or arrange for repairs to be performed by a service repair facility authorized by the Dealer. However, you may elect to perform this recall yourself or pay another independent repair facility to 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



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If you elect to perform this recall yourself or pay another independent repair facility to perform this recall, a replacement stop arm blade assembly may be obtained from SMI Customer Service at 1-800-951-7867. The replacement part will be expedited and may be obtained by one of three methods outlined below:

- **Web:** Visit http://www.smiglobal.net/tech_bulletins.php and click on the **Safety Recall: Transpec Stop Arm Decal** link under the **Stop Arms & Blades** section.
- **E-mail:** Send an e-mail to SMI at warranty@smiglobal.net indicating the quantity of Transpec service kits you need along with the following information provided on the SMI-Transpec Recall Form for each vehicle:
 - Company Name
 - Contact Name
 - Contact Phone
 - Contact E-mail Address
 - Mailing Address
 - Shipping Address (if different than mailing address)
 - Vehicle Manufacturer
 - VIN
 - Body Number
 - Front SA Part Number
 - Front SA Build Date
 - Rear SA Part Number (if applicable)
 - Rear SA Build Date (if applicable)
- **Phone:** Contact SMI Customer Service at 1-800-951-7867.

Labor Reimbursement:

- Transpec Stop Arm service kit(s) will be sent to you upon request and will include complete instructions on the removal and reinstallation of the defective components.
- Removal and reinstallation of each Transpec blade can be accomplished in **15 minutes**, for which SMI will reimburse installers **\$30.00** for each remedied stop arm.
- To request for Labor Reimbursement the Dealer/Owner will be required to submit an invoice to SMI for the labor charge for each serviced vehicle.
 - The invoice should include the following information:
 - Blue Bird Recall Campaign Number - R16YK
 - SMI Recall Campaign Number 15E-090
 - VIN and Body Numbers for each serviced vehicle
- The invoice should be submitted to SMI via e-mail at warranty@smiglobal.net or via US mail to the following address:
 - Attention: Warranty Department
Specialty Manufacturing, Incorporated
13501 South Ridge Drive
Charlotte, NC 28273



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If Specialty Manufacturing, Incorporated (SMI) does not provide the requested replacement part(s), you may contact Blue Bird Body Company Recall Administration 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.

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, the Dealer/Owner will be required to submit an invoice to SMI for the labor charge for each serviced vehicle. 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.

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 or lisa.hancock@blue-bird.com.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hancock

Lisa Hancock
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company