



R16YR

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

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

June 27, 2016

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

**SUBJECT: RECALL R16YR, RICON WHEELCHAIR LIFT LINK ARM PIVOT HOLES
Noncompliance: FMVSS 404, Platform Lift Installations**

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

Owners will need to make an appointment with the local Ricon Dealer to have the lift inspected and repaired. To locate your nearest Ricon wheelchair servicing dealer you may visit the Ricon website www.riconcorp.com and selecting "Dealer Locator" at the bottom left of the Ricon website home page. You may also contact Ricon Customer Service at (800) 322-2884 or (818) 267-3000. You may contact Corey Thomas, Engineering Manager, cothomas@wabtec.com or (818) 267-3016 with specific technical questions. If you are unable to reach Ricon Customer Service or a local Ricon service dealer, contact your local Blue Bird Dealer for assistance. Your Blue Bird Dealer can be found by using the Dealer Locator at www.blue-bird.com.

If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the yellow cover sheet and return to Blue Bird.

When the recall remedy has been performed on your Ricon wheelchair lift(s) complete and return the enclosed R16YR Recall Completion Reply Sheet so we may update our records. This will prevent you from receiving additional follow up notices.

If the remedy directed by this notification was provided for your bus(es) prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the white Recall Completion Reply Sheet and return to Blue Bird Attention: Recall Administrator. Mail the documents in the pink self-addressed postage paid envelope included with this recall notification.

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 after contacting Ricon Corporation, you do not receive a response in a reasonable time 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 lisa.hancock@blue-bird.com or (478) 822-2242.

Regards,

Lisa Hancock

Lisa Hancock
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