



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 17, 2018

Ms. Lisa Hancock  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
Blue Bird Body Company  
402 Blue Bird Blvd  
Fort Valley, GA 31069

NEF-150MR  
18V-259

**Subject:** Throttle Input may not be Blocked as Expected

Dear Ms. Hancock:

This letter serves to acknowledge Blue Bird Body Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
BLUE BIRD/VISION/2017-2018

**Mfr's Report Date:** April 24, 2018

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 18V-259

**Components:**  
VEHICLE SPEED CONTROL:ACCELERATOR PEDAL

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 364

**Problem Description:**

Blue Bird Body Company (Blue Bird) is recalling certain 2017-2018 Blue Bird Vision school buses equipped with Gen4 Ford engines with an optional brake and throttle interlock. The brake and throttle interlock is supposed to apply the service brakes and prevent accelerator pedal input when activated, however the throttle input is not being blocked.

**Consequence:**

If throttle input is allowed, the bus may be able to overpower the applied brake, causing the bus to move unexpectedly, increasing the risk of a crash or an injury.

**Remedy:**

Blue Bird will notify owners, and dealers will update the Smart Relay Module software. The recall is expected to begin in May 2018. Owners may contact Blue Bird customer service at 1-478-822-2242. Blue Bird's number for this recall is R18ZF - SB.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Michelle Rice who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-1060, or by email at [michelle.rice@dot.gov](mailto:michelle.rice@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Timian", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement