

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

18V-258

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

Submission Date : MAY 16, 2018

NHTSA Recall No. : 18V-258

Manufacturer Recall No. : R18ZF - NSB



Manufacturer Information :

Population :

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

Number of potentially involved : 12

Address : P.O. Box 937
402 Blue Bird Boulevard Fort Valley
GA 31030

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Company phone : 478-822-2242

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2017-2018 Blue Bird Vision

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : CNG/LPG

Descriptive Information : Blue Bird is issuing a recall to update the software in the Roush Smart Relay Module (SRM).

Production Dates : AUG 11, 2016 - APR 08, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR **End :** NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : On certain model Vision buses, the Smart Relay Module (SRM) intermittently does not see the change in state of the J1939 command from the Actia Instrument Cluster to either inhibit the throttle (accelerator) or make the throttle active once inhibited. Therefore, an intermittent throttle interlock function can occur on units with a Gen4 engine.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : An issue was found on certain school buses equipped with Gen4 Ford engines with optional brake and throttle interlock. The brake and throttle interlock option is supposed to apply the service brakes and inhibit the accelerator pedal input when active. During interlock, a software issue exists in the new Gen4 Smart Relay Control Module (Gateway Module) that may allow torque when the driver depresses the accelerator pedal. The software issue involves not blocking the accelerator input as intended. This could result in enough torque to drive through the service brakes and cause unintended movement of the bus.

Description of the Cause : The issue is that the Smart Relay Module (SRM) looks periodically at the

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :

information on the data link from three sources instead of looking at it solely from the instrument cluster and due to complex timing issues it would intermittently not see the change of state request for the accelerator interlock.
There is no warning to the driver.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Roush CleanTech
Address : 12170 Globe Street
Livonia 48150
Country : NR

Chronology :

June, 2017: The issue surfaced at Blue Bird during the initial launch phase of a new instrument cluster manufactured by Ametek Dixon. The previous manufacturer was Actia.

June 20, 2017, Blue Bird notified Roush of the issue and requested a fix to the SRM software. Roush responded quickly and all buses with Ametek Dixon clusters that implemented June 5, 2017, received updated software.

July, 2017, testing continued on buses with the obsolete Actia instrument clusters to determine if the issue occurred on those buses. It was confirmed the intermittent issue could occur.

January 8, 2018, Roush released diagnostic tool software to the web so dealers can reflash SRM's.

April 18, 2018, a decision was made to issue a recall on the affected units. No accidents or injuries have been reported as a result of this issue.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Update the software in the Smart Relay Module (SRM).

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : May 18, 2018 - Update the software in the Smart Relay Module (SRM).

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAY 18, 2018 - MAY 18, 2018

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAY 18, 2018 - MAY 18, 2018

* NR - Not Reported