

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

19V-526

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company**Submission Date :** OCT 01, 2019**NHTSA Recall No. :** 19V-526**Manufacturer Recall No. :** R19AF - SB**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

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

Company phone : 478-822-2242

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 1,737

Estimated percentage with defect : 20 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2020 Blue Bird All American

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : On certain 2018 to 2020 All American school buses, the Prolo roof hatch (emergency exit) release handle can fail under normal operating loads. Certain production lots of the cast handles were found to contain a higher than specified level of porosity. The increased level of porosity is a result of inconsistencies in the casting process. The excess porosity can create failure points in the handle stem leading to breakage under normal operational loads. Failure of the external release handle will prevent the hatch release mechanism from being actuated from the outside of the bus.

Production Dates : SEP 10, 2018 - JUN 30, 2019

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2018-2020 Blue Bird Vision

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : On certain 2018 to 2020 Vision school buses, the Prolo roof hatch (emergency exit) release handle can fail under normal operating loads. Certain production lots of the cast handles were found to contain a higher than specified level of porosity. The increased level of porosity is a result of inconsistencies in the casting process. The excess porosity can create failure points in the handle stem leading to breakage under normal operational loads. Failure of the external release handle will prevent the hatch release mechanism from being actuated from the outside of the bus.

Production Dates : SEP 07, 2018 - JUL 01, 2019

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : On certain 2018 to 2020 Vision and All American school buses, the Prolo roof hatch (emergency exit) release handle can fail under normal operating loads. Certain production lots of the cast handles were found to contain a higher than specified level of porosity. The excess porosity can create failure points in the handle stem leading to breakage under normal operational loads. Failure of the external release handle will prevent the hatch release mechanism from being actuated from the outside of the bus. The hatch can still be opened from the outside by venting the hatch and actuating the inside release handle. However, this operation is not detailed in the required instructions located on the hatch. Failure of the external release handle does not prevent actuation of the release mechanism from the inside of the bus.

FMVSS 1 : 217 - Bus emergency exits and window retention and release

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Failure of the external release handle will prevent the hatch release mechanism from being actuated from the outside of the bus. The hatch can still be opened from the outside by venting the hatch and actuating the inside release handle. However, this operation is not detailed in the required instructions located on the hatch. Failure of the external release handle does not prevent actuation of the release mechanism from the inside of the bus.

Description of the Cause : This condition results from an increased level of porosity in the cast handle. The increased level of porosity is a result of inconsistencies in the casting process. The casting mold temperature was cooler than the required temperature in one section of the mold. This caused the injected zinc to cool too rapidly which created voids in the stem of the cast handle.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : None

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Specialty Manufacturing Company

Address : 13501 South Ridge Drive
Charlotte NORTH CAROLINA 28273

Country : United States

Chronology :

On 3/13/19, Safe Fleet was notified by a School Bus OEM of a broken outer Prolo handle that was found at their inspection station. A review of customer complaints and warranty data showed no other reports of broken handles. On 5/20/19, another School Bus OEM notified Safe Fleet of a broken handle during their inspection

process. On 5/20/19 all Safe Fleet stock in their warehouse was placed in quarantine. All units in the Safe Fleet warehouse had the handles replaced before being taken out of quarantine. During this rework, a hatch built on 12/6/18 was found with a broken handle. Safe Fleet testing determined that the failure was a result of porosity in the cast handle. Safe Fleet determined the minimum weight for the cast handle that are within spec. Utilizing this weight, Safe Fleet determined that the issue start date was 8/30/2018. Production resumed on 5/21/19 with only certified in-spec handles. Safe Fleet notified NHTSA on 6/21/2019 of the need to recall Prolo roof hatches built between 8/30/2018 and 5/20/2019. Safe Fleet notified Blue Bird of their recall, 19E-042, on 7/8/2019.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : In accordance with the Safe Fleet recall 19E042, any Prolo hatch with a Safe Fleet build date between August 30, 2018 and May 20, 2019 will have the outer handle replaced.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

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

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Parts will be available in July, 2019

Planned Dealer Notification Date : SEP 01, 2019 - SEP 01, 2019

Planned Owner Notification Date : SEP 01, 2019 - SEP 01, 2019

* NR - Not Reported