

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 21V-300

**Manufacturer Name :** Blue Bird Body Company**Submission Date :** APR 28, 2021**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21V-300**Manufacturer Recall No. :** R21BG-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 : 302

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2021 Blue Bird Vision

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM &amp; HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

**Descriptive Information :** The subject Electric Drivetrain consists of high voltage batteries and other components to control and distribute high voltage to a drive motor and other components. The system may also supply and control power to an electrically assisted power steering pump, which is supplied by Cummins. These systems were sold as original equipment in certain school buses and as original or upfit equipment in certain medium duty trucks. This recall consists of the entire population of systems built prior to February 23, 2021.

Production Dates : JAN 19, 2019 - APR 02, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2018-2021 Blue Bird All American

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM &amp; HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

**Descriptive Information :** The subject Electric Drivetrain consists of high voltage batteries and other components to control and distribute high voltage to a drive motor and other components. The system may also supply and control power to an electrically assisted power steering pump, which is supplied by Cummins. These systems were sold as original equipment in certain school buses and as original or upfit equipment in certain medium duty trucks. This recall consists of the entire population of systems built prior to February 23, 2021.

Production Dates : AUG 01, 2018 - APR 20, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : Due to electromagnetic noise on the Control Area Network (CAN) bus, the subject Electric Drivetrain systems may experience loss of control of the inverter that provides electrical power to the power steering pump, possibly resulting in the loss of electrically assisted power steering. Power steering functionality is restored after a keyswitch recycle.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In the event of loss of power steering assist, manual steering functionality is retained but would require increased steering effort, particularly at lower speeds, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : The cause is electrical noise on the CAN bus.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : None

**Involved Components :**

Component Name 1 : Not Available; To Be Determined

Component Description : Not Available; To Be Determined

Component Part Number : Not Available; To Be Determined

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : Cummin, Incorporated

Address : 500 Jackson Street  
Columbus Indiana 47202-3005

Country : United States

**Chronology :**

Monday, April 26, 2021: Blue Bird received notification via e-mail that Cummins issued a Safety Recall on certain PowerDrive EV Electric Drivetrains.

The remaining chronology was provided by Cummins:

December 9, 2020: Cummins' product safety team initiated an investigation into reports of temporary loss of power steering in vehicles equipped with the subject engines. The investigation included a review of data and

consideration of a prior design review for wiring harness modifications and root cause analysis.  
January 28 - February 22, 2021: Cummins conducted a Product Safety Hazard Analysis.  
March 12 - April 12, 2021: Cummins escalated the issue through its Product Safety Defect Board process and gathered additional data, including conducting a demonstration of the failure in a test vehicle.  
April 13, 2021: Based upon the information developed during the investigation, Cummins' Product Safety Defect Board decided to conduct a safety campaign to address this condition. To date, there have been no reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

## Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Pursuant to 49 CFR 577.11(e), Cummins requests that it be exempt from providing notification of a reimbursement plan. Any pre-notification product failure would have been replaced under the manufacturer's limited warranty. Accordingly, no person would be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to 573.13.  
Cummins is developing the remedy and will amend this report accordingly.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Cummins states this condition was corrected in a wire harness change that was implemented in production on February 23, 2021.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Cummins states this condition was corrected in a wire harness change that was implemented in production on February 23, 2021.

## Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer and Owner Notifications are to be issued on or before June 25, 2021.

Parts are required, but undetermined by Cummins at this time.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : JUN 25, 2021 - JUN 25, 2021

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUN 25, 2021 - JUN 25, 2021

\* NR - Not Reported