

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

22V-049

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

Submission Date : FEB 09, 2022

NHTSA Recall No. : 22V-049

Manufacturer Recall No. : R22BP



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 : 6

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2023-2023 Blue Bird Vision

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : It has been determined that certain Blue Bird Vision (BBCV) School Buses equipped with brake interlock features may fail to conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard FMVSS 403, Platform Lift Systems. This is due to an incorrect software file in the vehicle multiplex. The affected units are not sending a signal to activate the brakes when the wheel chair lift is in use. The root cause of this issue was determined to be an error in the software configuration database.

Production Dates : DEC 02, 2021 - DEC 18, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard FMVSS 403, Platform Lift Systems: This is due to an incorrect software file in the vehicle multiplex. The affected units are not sending a signal to activate the brakes when the wheel chair lift is in use. The root cause of this issue was determined to be an error in the software configuration database.

FMVSS 1 : 403 - Platform lift systems

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : The risk is the bus could move while the platform lift is in operation. Unexpected movement could result in injury to the user and/or operator of the platform lift.

Description of the Cause : Blue Bird determined the database referenced by configuration software had been incorrectly updated, causing the interlock to not activate according to the FMVSS 403 regulation.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : During normal interlock operation, a vehicle cluster notification identifies when the interlock is active when the lift is not in the stowed position. With the affected units, the indicator for active interlock would not be present. No additional notification is present other than the absence of the indicator.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Vehicle S19 file

Component Description : Individual Vehicle Software File (unique to each unit, and stored by Body Number)

Component Part Number : N/A Vehicle software file is stored on a dedicated Blue Bird server, available to our dealers.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

In early January, 2022, an issue was raised by the Blue Bird internal quality team about a BBCV unit with an inoperative wheel chair lift brake interlock. The Blue Bird Engineering Team reviewed the affected unit and determined that a new software file was needed and proceeded to correct the unit. The engineering team continued to sample similar units to determine the root cause. It was determined on January 31, 2022, that the software issue was caused by an error in the software configuration database. The database error occurred in the initial product launch on October 1, 2021. Engineering made an update to the database on November 16, 2021, to correct an internal feature definitions issue, at that time it was not known that software compiled before this date would experience an issue with the wheel chair lift brake interlock function. All affected specific units where the vehicle software file was generated between October 1, 2021, and November 16, 2021, were deemed to be suspect. At this time, all affected units that have not yet been delivered have been updated with the correct software. There have been no reports from the field related to this issue.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Blue Bird will provide a software update which can be performed by the owner's local Dealer or Authorized Service Center. Labor Reimbursement: Blue Bird will reimburse the labor cost of the repair related to this recall at no cost to the Dealer or to the vehicle owner.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Remedy component is a lift-equipped vehicle software file that was created and loaded after November 16, 2021. The recall component is a lift-equipped vehicle software file created and loaded between the start of production, October 1, 2021 and November 16, 2021.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Engineering made an update to the database on November 16, 2021 to correct an internal feature definitions issue, which inadvertently CORRECTED the issue. Once engineering was able to determine that the initial configuration database that was in place from October 1, 2021 up to the change on November 16, 2021 was the issue, all units that had not shipped were reprocessed with the updated vehicle software file.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer and Owner Notifications are to be issued on or before March 30, 2022.

Parts are not required.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 30, 2022 - MAR 30, 2022

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 30, 2022 - MAR 30, 2022

* NR - Not Reported