



R22BW

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL
NHTSA Campaign Number: 22V-321 (School Bus)
NHTSA Campaign Number: 22V-330 (Non-School Bus)

DATE: June 30, 2022

SUBJECT: R22BW: FMVSS 102 Noncompliance – BBCV Starter Interlock with Allison Transmission

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Blue Bird Body Company has decided that certain 2023 Vision School and Non-School Buses fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 102, "Transmission Shift Lever Sequence/Starter Interlock/Transmission Braking Effect."

This notice applies to your bus(es) identified by both Blue Bird Body Number and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the enclosed yellow cover sheet. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the yellow cover sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

Blue Bird Body Company is voluntarily recalling the following:

- Certain model year 2023 Blue Bird Vision School Buses
 - manufactured from April 12, 2022 through May 3, 2022
- Certain model year 2023 Blue Bird Vision Non-School Buses
 - manufactured on May 7, 2022

The Allison transmission may have incorrect starter interlock settings in the vehicle software. Affected buses will allow the engine to crank while the T-handle gear shifter is in Reverse or Drive. When the vehicle is cranked while the T-handle shifter is in a drive gear, a 'Range Inhibit' error is displayed in the vehicle cluster. While the 'Range Inhibit' error is active, the transmission will not engage the clutch, which will prevent the vehicle from lurching forward or rearward. This issue was created when the vehicle software was changed on March 23, 2022, to accommodate vehicles with a park pawl feature.

Corrective Action:

To correct this noncompliance, Blue Bird will provide repair instructions. An updated vehicle software version has been created which will require the T-handle gear shifter physically be in the Neutral Position before the starter can be energized. All affected vehicles will need to have the A Zone multiplex reflashed with the updated S19 file.

Blue Bird will reimburse the labor cost of the repair related to this recall at no cost to the vehicle owner. Please contact your local Blue Bird dealer to arrange to have the Recall performed. To locate an authorized dealer, search online at www.blue-bird.com/find-a-dealer. The safety risk is if the clutch were to allow the automatic transmission to engage, the vehicle could move forward or backward unexpectedly while attempting to start the unit, thus increasing the risk of injury to those in close proximity to the exterior front or rear of the bus. The warning that may precede is if the unit has the incorrect software version, and is started while in gear, there will be a "range inhibit"



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Corrective Action: *(continued)*

message displayed on the instrument cluster. Buses with this non-compliance must be corrected immediately. A software update is currently available. The expected out of service time necessary to accomplish the software update is **.5 hours (30 minutes)**. Blue Bird Dealers will perform a software update to rectify the issue at no cost to the owner. **Parts are not required.**

Labor Reimbursement:

Blue Bird will reimburse the labor cost of potential repairs relating to this recall at no cost to you the vehicle owner.

The Standard Repair Time (SRT) to accomplish this repair is outlined below:

- **R22BW: Repair**
 - 0.5 hours (30 minutes)

Administering the Recall:

Parts are not required to complete Recall R22BW.

Blue Bird recommends that you contact your local or nearest Blue Bird Dealer to arrange for this recall to be performed. The Dealer can perform the repairs, or arrange for repairs to be performed by a service repair facility authorized by the Dealer. However, you may elect to perform this recall yourself or pay another independent repair facility to perform this recall. A qualified technician should perform this recall. If you elect to perform this recall yourself or pay another independent repair facility to perform this recall, complete and submit the Pink Owner's Recall Reply Sheet provided. The Recall Reply Sheet includes a section for the owner to request reimbursement of the owner's labor or to request reimbursement for a labor invoice paid by the owner to an independent repair facility.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, attach a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the pink self-addressed postage prepaid envelope included with the pink reply sheet to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

Please contact your local Blue Bird Dealer with any questions regarding this recall campaign.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

Or, you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:
1-888-327-4236 TTY 1-800-424-9153 or go to: <http://www.safercar.gov>

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY
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