



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

November 24, 2023

Ms. Lisa Hancock  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
Blue Bird Body Company  
402 Blue Bird Blvd  
Fort Valley, GA 31069

NEF-107DC  
23V-778

**Subject:** High Back Seat Restraining Barriers/FMVSS 222

Dear Ms. Hancock:

This letter serves to acknowledge Blue Bird Body Company's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

BLUE BIRD/ALL AMERICAN/2014-2024

**Mfr's Report Date:** November 20, 2023

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 23V-778

**Components:**

STRUCTURE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 6,124

**Problem Description:**

Blue Bird Body Company (Blue Bird) is recalling certain 2014-2024 All American school buses equipped with 39" High Back seat restraining barriers. The bolts securing the restraining barriers to the floor may separate when fully loaded. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard number 222, "School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection."

**Consequence:**

An unsecured seat restraining barrier may not properly restrain an occupant during a crash, increasing their risk of injury.

**Remedy:**

Dealers will install a longer bolt with rectangular washer and nut, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed January 16, 2024. Owners may contact Blue Bird customer service at 1-478-822-2242. Blue Bird's number for this recall is R23CU-SB. This recall is an expansion of recall number 23V-777.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:



You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

As stated in 49 U.S.C. § 30118(f), submission of eight consecutive quarterly reports followed by three annual reports is required. As described in 573.7, submission of the first of eight consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter. The first of three consecutive annual status reports will be due on, or before, 1 year after the eighth quarterly report was submitted.

Blue Bird Body Company's contact for this recall will be Debora Crews who may be reached by email at [debora.crews@dot.gov](mailto:debora.crews@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement