



R23CH

## FINAL NOTICE

**DATE:** January 26, 2024

**TO:** Blue Bird Owners

**Subject:** R23CH: (FMVSS 121 Noncompliance)  
Vision (EV Only) & All American (All Fuel Types)  
Loss of Air Pressure Gauge & Low Air Warning

According to our records, we have not received confirmation the above referenced recall, dated July 28, 2023, has been completed. A copy of Recall R23CH is attached. Your buses affected by Recall R23CH are identified by Blue Bird body number and VIN under Section 2 on the enclosed cover sheet.

If this is the first time you received notification of Recall R23CH, please read the enclosed notification carefully. Recall R23CH must be completed, as soon as possible.

### **Corrective Action:**

To correct this noncompliance, Blue Bird will notify the affected dealers and owners and will provide repair instructions for the Ametek Software Update. 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. The safety risk is an absence of functioning air gauges and visual/audible warning, a driver would not have warning if brake air pressure was lost. Brake air pressure loss would result in non-functioning brakes, therefore, increasing the chance of a crash. A driver would be able to visually identify non-functioning air gauges which is a pre-trip check requirement on air brake equipped buses. Recall R23CH should be repaired, per R23CH Recall Instructions. **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:**

- **R23CH, Repair**
  - 0.5 hours (30 minutes)

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.



R23CH

**IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL**  
NHTSA Number: 23V-425 (School Bus)  
NHTSA Number: 23V-424 (Non-School Bus)

**DATE:** July 28, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** R23CH: (FMVSS 121 Noncompliance)  
Vision (EV Only) & All American (All Fuel Types) - Loss of Air Pressure Gauge & Low Air Warning

**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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain:

- Model year 2021-2022 Blue Bird Vision School Buses
  - manufactured from October 25, 2021 through December 19, 2022
- Model year 2021-2024 Blue Bird All American School Buses
  - manufactured from September 3, 2021 through January 13, 2023
- Model year 2022-2024 Blue Bird All American Non-School Buses
  - manufactured from September 7, 2021 through January 11, 2023

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.

Certain Blue Bird Vision and All American School and Non-School Buses equipped with pneumatic brakes have been found to inconsistently not have functioning air pressure gauges, and visual/audible low air warnings on startup in ambient  $\leq 50^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $10^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) temps. In the absence of functioning air gauges and visual/audible warning, a driver would not have warning if brake air pressure was lost. Brake air pressure loss would result in non-functioning brakes, therefore, increasing the chance of a crash.

Blue Bird shall conduct a voluntary safety recall to correct this noncompliance.

**Corrective Action:**

To correct this noncompliance, Blue Bird will notify the affected dealers and owners and will provide repair instructions for the Ametek Software Update. 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. The safety risk is an absence of functioning air gauges and visual/audible warning, a driver would not have warning if brake air pressure was lost. Brake air pressure loss would result in non-functioning brakes, therefore, increasing the chance of a crash. A driver would be able to visually identify non-functioning air gauges which is a pre-trip check requirement on air brake equipped buses. Recall R23CH should be repaired, per R23CH Recall Instructions. **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:**

- **R23CH, Repair**
  - 0.5 hours (30 minutes)



**Administering the Recall and Parts:**

**Blue Bird recommends you contact your local or nearest Blue Bird Dealer to arrange for this recall to be performed.**

To locate an authorized dealer, search online at [www.blue-bird.com/find-a-dealer](http://www.blue-bird.com/find-a-dealer). 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. **Parts are not required.**

**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>



# RECALL

## R23CH: INOPERATIVE AIR PRESSURE GAUGES

**Production Models Affected:** Certain 2021 through 2024 Model Year T3RE, T3FE and BBCV (EV only) Blue Bird buses equipped with pneumatic brakes.

**Parts Affected:**

Blue Bird Part Number	Ametek Part Number	Description	Ametek Config umber
10072296	000104716	CLUSTER, INSTRUMENT,36-PIN, VIDEO, AIR	104893-002_v1.5
10073740	000104937	CLUSTER, INSTRUMENT,36-PIN, AIR, EV, CORE 2	104893-003_v1.3
10073741	000104938	CLUSTER, INSTRUMENT,6-PIN, AIR, EV, CORE 2	104893-203_v1.4

**Issue:** The primary and secondary air pressure gauges along with visual & audible low air warnings could be inoperative at vehicle startup in <50°F(10°C) ambient temps. This condition will often go away after ~20 minutes of engine run time has expired.

**Corrective Action:** Reflash the instrument cluster with the latest software available on Vantage.

**NOTE:** It is **strongly recommended** that the cluster be programmed on the bench for two reasons:

- First, it mitigates the opportunity to load the cluster software file in the wrong device.
- Second, depending on feature content, the cluster could be the source for certain CAN based data for the J1939 network. During the flash process, the cluster (0x17) falls offline and could set fault codes in other controllers.

**WARNING:** Always follow all Federal, State, Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment, and thoroughly read and understand all instructions before performing these procedures. Park bus on level surface, apply parking brake, turn off ignition key, and chock wheels.

**Tools Needed:**

Item	Part Number	Description	Quantity
1	N/A	RP1210A complaint adapter	1
2	10055458	HARNESS, BENCH, PROGRAM, INSTR CLUSTER, AMETEK	1
3	N/A	12v bench power supply	1
4	N/A	Latest version of the Ameflash tool found <a href="#">HERE</a>	1

**Instructions:**

**Step 1:** Review the current cluster software installed. To do so, ensure park brake is set and key is on. Hold lower button down for >3 seconds. Scroll to “SELF-TEST”-> “COMPONENT TESTS”-> “SOFTWARE VERSION”. Compare to chart above. If version installed is older than what is illustrated, proceed to the following steps to update the cluster software.

**Step 2:** Download the latest cluster software, based on your cluster part number.

**Step 3:** Re-program the cluster, per [THESE](#) instructions.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

- This cluster flash is unique from any other update Blue Bird Field Service has published. The calibration process will transpire as follows:
  - Once flash is started, the status bar on the AmeFlash tool will progress from 0-100%, left to right. During this process, the cluster will display “REFLASH IN PROGRESS”. See Figure 1.
  - Once that completes, the cluster display will be black and will not auto-initialize.
  - The red low air visual indicators SHOULD begin to flash rapidly. See Figure 2.
  - If they do not, remove the cluster battery fuse within the PDU, count to 3, and re-install it. The low air warning LED’s should begin to flash rapidly for ~30 seconds. After which the cluster will re-start and the bus can be restored to service.



Figure 1



Figure 2