# Part 573 Safety Recall Report 24V-543

**Manufacturer Name :** Blue Bird Body Company
**Submission Date :** AUG 09, 2024
**NHTSA Recall No. :** 24V-543
**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR

## 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 : 16,708
Estimated percentage with defect : 5 %

## Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2019-2023 Blue Bird Vision, All American Front Engine, All American Rear Engine School Buses
Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES
Body Style :
Power Train : NR
Descriptive Information : Recall population was determined on the basis of quality analysis and metrics that exist. This is also the basis through which we determined the affected production dates.
Production Dates : SEP 09, 2019 - MAR 31, 2022
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

## Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance : It has been determined that certain Blue Bird School buses fail to conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Number 221, School Bus Body Joint Strength. These subject buses may not comply with the 60% joint strength requirement on certain 8-inch segments of the exterior roof joints.

FMVSS 1 : 221 - School bus body joint strength
FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Blue Bird evaluated the risk to motor vehicle safety related to this noncompliance and determined that there is a potential for the roof sheets to separate in the event of a
crash when less than 7 rivets are installed in an 8-inch roof joint segment. In the event of a crash, if the roof sheets separate, there is an increased risk of injury.

Description of the Cause : This was a result of rivets not being installed in manufacturing line as per engineering designs. The holes for rivet installation were not properly drilled resulting in low rivet density.

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| Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : | No warning can precede. |

**Involved Components :**

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| Component Name 1 : | Rivet |
| Component Description : | FASTENER, HUCK, 0.25 BLIND, MAGNALOK, MGLP-R8-ES |
| Component Part Number : | 10052610 |

**Supplier Identification :**

**Component Manufacturer**

| | |
|---|---|
| Name : | NR |
| Address : | NR |
| | NR |
| Country : | NR |

**Chronology :**

June 26th 2024: NHTSA Engineer Daniel Lind informed Blue Bird about the non compliance they witnessed during test. Blue Bird immediately took upon the investigation and started deep dive into the root cause of this issue.
July 17th 2024: Blue Bird determined this indeed is a non-compliance which has resulted due to improper manufacturing methods used and lack of quality inspections in place at the time the affected bus was built.
July 19th 2024: Blue Bird submits Defect Report.

**Description of Remedy :**

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| Description of Remedy Program : | To correct this noncompliance, the roof sheet joints on these subject buses must be inspected and, if found not in compliance, modified according to the Blue Bird repair instructions. Roof panel joints are assembled with two rows of rivets. Each joint must have a minimum of 7 rivets in each 8-inch segment. Utilizing an 8-inch template moving along the roof panel joint, the repair personnel will count the rivets that appear in the cutout section of the template. In the event that an 8-inch roof section has less than 7 rivets, the repair personnel will be required to add a sufficient number of rivets evenly spaced such that there are 7 rivets installed in that 8-inch segment. |
| How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : | The remedy will have more rivets per 8 inch area which provides additional strength to the joint. |
| Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : | From April 2022, Quality teams introduced two additional inspections to verify the rivet installations. Since then the production line issues were addressed and corrected on timely basis. |

**Recall Schedule :**

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| Description of Recall Schedule : | NR |
| Planned Dealer Notification Date : | SEP 17, 2024 - DEC 31, 2024 |
| Planned Owner Notification Date : | SEP 17, 2024 - DEC 31, 2024 |

* NR - Not Reported