



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

25V249

Manufacturer Name: Blue Bird Body Company

Submission Date: May 16, 2025

NHTSA Recall No.: 25V249

Manufacturer Recall No.: R25DL

Manufacturer Information

Population

Manufacturer Name: Blue Bird Body Company

Address: P.O. Box 937
402 Blue Bird Boulevard
Fort Valley GA, 31030

Total number of potentially involved: 162

Estimated percentage with defect: 5%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2022-2024 Blue Bird Vision

Product Category: Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: May 02, 2022 - Apr 10, 2025

Number of potentially involved:

Descriptive Information:

A condition has been identified on certain Blue Bird Vision electric vehicles equipped with the Accelera PowerDrive system and hydraulic brakes where if the vehicle experiences a loss of power assist during braking the pedal may require increased effort to engage the service brakes due to a fault with the secondary brake booster. This could result in excessive stopping distance and potentially loss of vehicle control. It has been identified that the brake assist system may be inoperable and unable to provide braking assist to the driver in the event of a loss of power the primary high-voltage pump.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

In October 2024, two separate collisions involving Blue Bird Vision electric vehicles with hydraulic brakes were reported. Both were attributed to a loss of power brake assist. Investigations revealed that in each case, a fault in the electric vehicle system triggered a shutdown of the high-voltage system during operation. Warnings of the faults were disregarded by the drivers, and the secondary brake assist were also inoperative on both buses contributing to the incidents.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

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Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:

Due to the excessive stopping distances there is a high risk of loss of vehicle control. If the secondary brake motor is non-functional in the event of a high voltage shutdown, Blue Bird is conducting a voluntary recall to inspect the system on the buses and improve the diagnostics.

Description of the cause:

The brake assist system on Blue Bird electric vehicles with hydraulic brakes has a primary and secondary back-up in the event of a primary system failure. The primary system is powered by the high voltage pump. A loss of high-voltage power disables the power steering system, shifting reliance to the secondary brake assist system. This secondary system is powered by a separate electric motor connected to the low-voltage system, delivering approximately 35% of the normal brake assist capacity, which is sufficient to aid in stopping a moving vehicle. Investigation of the two vehicles involved in the crashes revealed a blown fuse in one vehicle and a disconnected brake booster harness in the other. The vehicles lack the diagnostic capability to detect these failure modes in the secondary brake booster motor to notify the operator.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

The secondary brake assist system was rendered inoperative due to distinct failure modes in each vehicle. Following investigation, it was determined that the diagnostic system for the secondary brake assist only triggers a dashboard warning for specific failure conditions, which did not include the issues observed in the two affected vehicles. As a result, the operator received no prior warning of the complete loss of brake assist functionality after the high-voltage system shut down.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier:

Supplier Type:

Name:

Address:

Country:

Involved Components

Component Name 1: Secondary Hydraulic Brake Assist System

Component Description: Backup Brake System

Component Part Number:

Chronology

* October 2024 Two crash incidents were reported resulting from the loss of hydraulic power brake assist. Bluebird continued investigation Cummins/Accelera to identify the root cause of the issue. *
December 2024: Blue Bird continued joint investigation with Cummins/Accelera to identify the root

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cause of primary brake failure. * February 2025: Blue Bird identified that secondary brake assist pump did not have any diagnostics built into it, due to which operator wouldn't know the status of the pump in case of primary brake failure. * April 2025: Blue Bird Product Safety Committee made a decision that this is a safety issue and it needs to be addressed. Blue Bird issues stop shipment on affected units and submits a part 573 report. * There were two incidents, one in NJ and other in MA. No deaths or injuries reported. * We meet the requirements for S5.1.2 and S5.1.3. In this case the issue is with secondary brake assist system inoperable. *There are no warranty reports nor field reports available.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Software

Consumer Advisories: Do Not Drive Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

Blue Bird has developed an improved diagnostic for the secondary brake assist system. The improvement involves a software updates and modification to the wiring harness to the system to enhance the detectability of a secondary brake assist system failure, including those on the two vehicles which experienced crashes, providing notification to the operator. The campaign will also inspect the systems to ensure they are functioning at the same time.

Reimbursement Plan: Blue Bird will follow the general reimbursement plan on file with NHTSA. 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 Parts are currently available and can be ordered campaignparts@blue-bird.com or through your local Blue Bird Dealer. Parts are required and may be ordered through campaignparts@blue-bird.com

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

As a mitigation measure, Blue Bird has identified diagnostic enhancements to improve detection of a failure of the secondary brake assist system. This would alert the operator to an unsafe condition prior to loss of the primary brake assist system in the event of the high voltage system shutting down.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

Improvements can be implemented by installing a jumper harness and updating vehicle software. All Blue Bird Vision electric vehicles with hydraulic brakes will be updated with the enhanced diagnostics per this process. All current or future hydraulic brake electric buses will include the same enhancement prior to delivery.

Reimbursement Plan

Description of reimbursement program:

Period of reimbursement:

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**25V249****Costs to be reimbursed:****Address for reimbursement claims:****Recall Schedule****Description of recall schedule:**

Dealer and Owner Notifications are to be issued on or before (Planned dealer notification date). Parts will be available at time of recall release.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Jun 12, 2025 - Jun 12, 2025 No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Jun 12, 2025 - Jun 12, 2025 Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: