



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V642

Manufacturer Name: Blue Bird Body Company

Submission Date: Oct 02, 2026

NHTSA Recall No.: 26V642

Manufacturer Recall No.: R26AK

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: 16

Estimated percentage with defect: 1%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2024-2024 BLUE BIRD ALL AMERICAN TRANSIT BUS (ELECTRIC)

Product Category: Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles

Product Type: Transit Bus

Fuel / Propulsion: Electric Battery Power

Production Dates: Mar 09, 2022 - May 22, 2023

Number of potentially involved: 8

Descriptive Information:

The recall was determined by an internal investigation. Vehicles outside of the population are not equipped with XALT HV batteries.

Vehicle 2: 2023-2023 BLUE BIRD ALL AMERICAN TRANSIT BUS (ELECTRIC)

Product Category: Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles

Product Type: Transit Bus

Fuel / Propulsion: Electric Battery Power

Production Dates: Mar 09, 2022 - May 22, 2023

Number of potentially involved: 7

Descriptive Information:

The recall was determined by an internal investigation. Vehicles outside of the population are not equipped with XALT HV batteries.

Vehicle 3: 2022-2022 BLUE BIRD ALL AMERICAN TRANSIT BUS (ELECTRIC)

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26V642**Product Category:** Buses, Medium & Heavy Vehicles**Product Type:** Transit Bus**Fuel / Propulsion:** Electric Battery Power**Production Dates:** Mar 09, 2022 - May 22, 2023**Number of potentially involved:** 1**Descriptive Information:**

The recall was determined by an internal investigation. Vehicles outside of the population are not equipped with XALT HV batteries.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

Certain MY22-24 Blue Bird All American Electric vehicles may be equipped with an XALT HV battery that may experience loose, broken, or missing mounting bolts.

FMVSS1:**FMVSS2:****Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:**

A compromised mounting system of the XALT HV battery could result in a loss of propulsion or dislodgement from the vehicle while in motion, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the cause:

Loose, broken, or missing mounting bolts could result in a compromised mounting system of the XALT HV battery.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier:**Supplier Type:****Name:** Blue Bird**Address:****Country:**

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Involved Components

Component Name 1: MOUNTING NUT**Component Description:** NUT,HEX HD,3/8-16,WASHER SER,YEL ZN DICH**Component Part Number:****Component Name 2:** MOUNTING BOLT**Component Description:** CAPSCREW,HEX FLG,3/8-16X1.25,GR8,YEL ZNDICH**Component Part Number:**

Chronology

- September 2023: Blue Bird received a field report of broken XALT HV battery mounting bolts on a unit. Due to this field report, Blue Bird performed an analysis of the XALT HV battery mounting bolts. This review resulted in an update to vehicle service manuals, requiring to service the bolts at 12 months or 20,000 miles. Service included removing the fasteners, inspecting for damage, replacing as necessary, and reinstalling with Vibra-tite VC-3 paste at factory torque values.
- December 2025: Blue Bird received a field report stating that an XALT HV battery pack dislodged from the vehicle. This field report resulted in Blue Bird beginning a comprehensive investigation and durability re-testing of the XALT HV battery mounting.
- June 2026: NHTSA reached out to Blue Bird regarding a VOQ in reference to the impacted vehicle from the December 2025 field report.
- September 2026: Blue Bird concluded that the torque specifications set for the mounting bolts during installation were insufficient.
- September 2026: Blue Bird's Safety Committee determined that this issue affects safety critical components, deeming it a safety recall.
- October 2026: Blue Bird submitted a defect report.

Blue Bird is aware of 5 field reports submitted between September 2023 and May 2026. Blue Bird is not aware of any injury or death related to this issue.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type:**Consumer Advisories:** ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

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26V642**Description of remedy program:**

A Blue Bird dealership or owner will remove and inspect the XALT HV battery mounting bolts for damage, further replacing if necessary. The bolts will be reinstalled with a new torque range and a thread locker. The service manuals will be updated to reflect the new torque range and will recommend service to the bolts every 6 months or 10,000 miles.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

Vehicles outside of the population are not equipped with XALT HV batteries.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

The affected XALT HV battery is no longer being offered in production; therefore, there is no containment activity required for units in production.

Reimbursement Plan

Manufacturer used general reimbursement plan on file.

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

Dealer and Owner Notifications are to be issued on or before December 1, 2026. A remedy will be available at the time of recall release.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Dec 01, 2026

☐ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date:

☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Dec 01, 2026

☐ Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: