



CSC-10043231-9812

August 30, 2007

Dear Blue Bird Owner,

You will find enclosed a copy of Service Bulletin S07MC regarding the tie rod ends on certain 2006-08 model year Blue Bird Vision (BBCV) buses.

The tie rod assembly (assembly includes cross tube, both tie rod ends and attaching hardware) on the Hendrickson front axle used on the Blue Bird Vision (BBCV) has undergone two changes by Hendrickson since the original implementation of the axle assembly. These changes were not reflected in the Blue Bird part numbers because the complete tie rod assemblies (cross tubes with both tie rod ends) are interchangeable.

However, the tie rod ends and cross tubes are not interchangeable between the original tie rod assembly and the second and third generation tie rod assemblies. It is possible to install an original shorter tie rod end into a second or third generation cross tube. This installation does not meet Hendrickson's requirements for tie rod end thread engagement in the cross tube.

Buses that have had the tie rod ends replaced after July 01, 2005 must have the tie rod ends inspected for correct part number and proper thread engagement in the cross tube. If a tie rod end is found with threads that do not extend inside the cross tube as indicated in the instructions for Service Bulletin S07MC, it must be replaced with a longer tie rod end.

Your bus(es) that may be affected by Service Bulletin S07MC are identified by Blue Bird body number on the enclosed cover sheet.

A qualified repair technician should perform Service Bulletin S07MC. Replacement tie rod ends, if needed, are available from your Blue Bird dealer or Bus Care/Bus Spec parts source.

Labor time required to inspect the tie rod ends for thread engagement is 0.1 hours per bus. Labor time to remove and replace an incorrect tie rod end is 0.5 hours. Time required to remove and replace both tie rod ends is 1 hour per bus.

You may request reimbursement for labor from your Blue Bird Dealer or Bus Care/Bus Spec parts source if modifications are performed within one year from the date Service Bulletin S07MC was issued.

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY
PO Box 937 • Fort Valley, Georgia 31030 • (478) 825-2021

Service Bulletin S07MC expires one (1) year from date of issue.

Should you have any questions concerning this bulletin, please contact your Blue Bird dealer or factory service representative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" and "C".

Bill Coleman
Blue Bird Corporation
478-822-2242
wpcolema@blue-bird.com



Hendrickson Tie Rod Ends

MODELS AFFECTED: All Blue Bird Visions (BBCV)

ISSUE

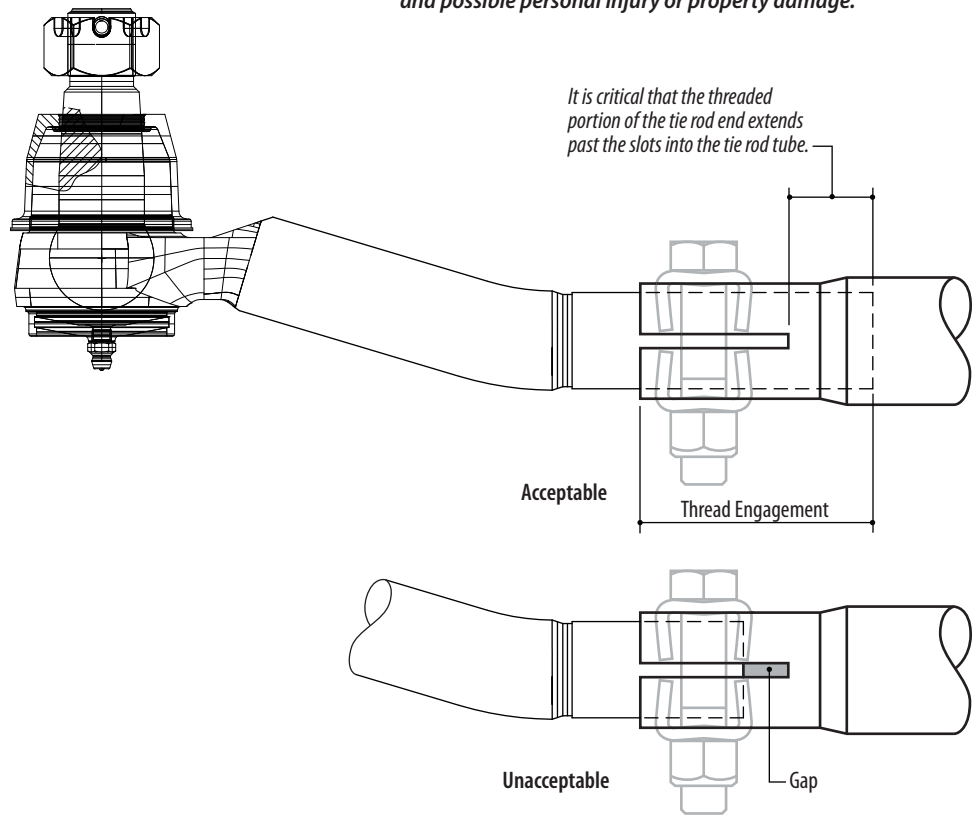
The tie rod assembly on Hendrickson front axles used on all Blue Bird Visions has undergone two changes since the introduction of the Vision. The changes were not reflected in Blue Bird part numbers because the tie rod assemblies are interchangeable. However, the First Generation tie rod ends are not interchangeable with the Second or Third Generation tie rod ends, resulting in different Hendrickson assemblies for individual subparts and assemblies. Blue Bird published S0705 Hendrickson Tie Rod Ends on May 14, 2007 to identify these changes and provide part numbers for our customers. It is possible, however, that a First Generation tie rod end (which had a long cross tube) may have been installed into a Second or Third Generation (which has a short cross tube) on chassis built after July 2005.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

Inspect all Tie Rod Ends and/or Tie Rod End/Cross Tube assemblies, installed or purchased since July 2005. Inspect tie rod end thread engagement into cross tube. If threads do not extend past the end of the slot in the cross tube or if any gap exist between the tie rod end and the end of the cross tube slot, contact your Blue Bird Service Parts Representative for replacement parts.

WARNING Always follow all Federal, State, Local, and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment when performing repair, replacement and service procedures.

WARNING The threaded portion of the tie rod end must extend past the slots in the tie rod cross tube, failure to do so can cause component to fail causing loss of vehicle control and possible personal injury or property damage.





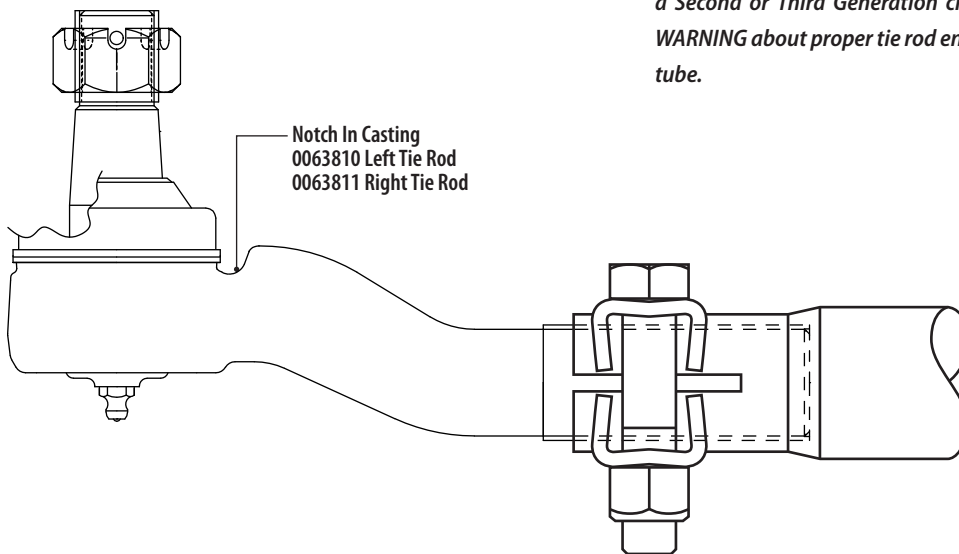
REFERENCE

First Generation Tie Rod Ends

First generation tie rod ends were used on Blue Bird Visions from its launch date to mid July, 2005. This tie rod end can be identified by a “notch” in the casting very near the rubber bushing. The replacement part numbers for this style tie rod end are 0063810 (Left) and 0063811 (Right).

Per Hendrickson Technical Bulletin SEU-0223 Tie Rod End Replacement Kits Revision B dated May 2007, the tie rod assembly and tie rod ends for these parts are obsolete and are no longer available. The entire tie rod assembly must be replaced. Per Hendrickson Technical Bulletin, Hendrickson Tie Rod End part number 66699-001 (Blue Bird 0094365) replaces Hendrickson Tie Rod End part number 59948-001, 59948-002 or 59948-006. Per Hendrickson Technical Bulletin, Hendrickson Tie Rod End part number 66699-003 (Blue Bird 0118467) replaces Hendrickson Tie Rod End part number 59948-004 or 59948-005. Note: The tie rod part number is located on the tie rod cross tube. Select the correct replacement for your vehicle.

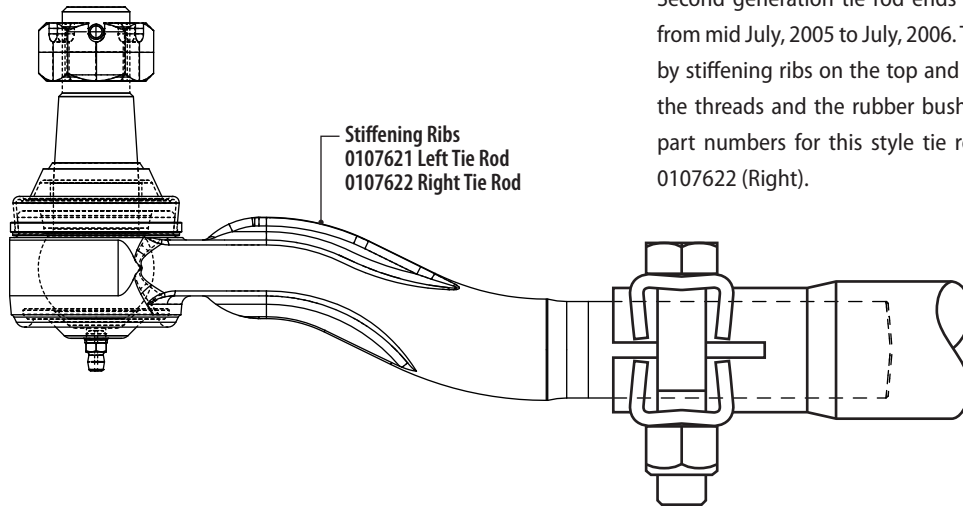
WARNING DO NOT use a First Generation tie rod end with a Second or Third Generation cross tube. Refer to Hendrickson **WARNING** about proper tie rod end thread engagement into cross tube.





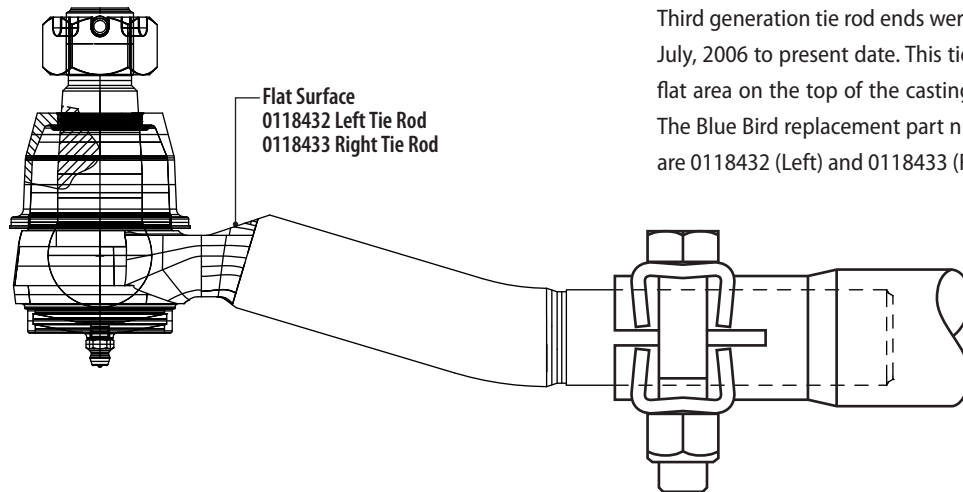
Second Generation Tie Rod Ends

Second generation tie rod ends were used on Blue Bird Visions from mid July, 2005 to July, 2006. This tie rod end can be identified by stiffening ribs on the top and bottom of the casting between the threads and the rubber bushing. The Blue Bird replacement part numbers for this style tie rod end are 0107621 (Left) and 0107622 (Right).



Third Generation Tie Rod Ends

Third generation tie rod ends were used on Blue Bird Visions from July, 2006 to present date. This tie rod end can be identified by a flat area on the top of the casting very near the rubber bushing. The Blue Bird replacement part numbers for this style tie rod end are 0118432 (Left) and 0118433 (Right).



The tie rod ends for the Second and Third Generations are interchangeable even though visually they are different shapes and are from different manufacturers.

WARNING Always install the correct Hendrickson parts and follow Hendrickson instructions for replacing the tie rod ends and/or tie rod assembly.