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By Recall Management Division at 10:09 am, Jun 08, 2012

June 07, 2012

Mr. Claude Harris  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Mr. Harris,

In accordance with the requirements of CFR 49 Part 573, Blue Bird Corporation is submitting the attached noncompliance reports.

Both school bus and non-school bus reports are attached.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on June 07, 2012.

If you should have any questions concerning the information submitted, please contact me at 478-822-2242.

Respectfully,



Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator

Enclosure:

49 CFR Part 573 Noncompliance Notification: R12VE SMI Prolo Roof Hatch FMVSS 217  
Noncompliance Reports for School Buses and Non School Buses



**PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting**

**Noncompliance Report**

**Report Date:** June 07, 2012

**1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:**

Blue Bird Corporation  
P. O. Box 937  
Fort Valley, GA 31030

**2. The following vehicles are being recalled:**

Certain 2012 and 2013 model year All American and Vision model school buses manufactured from April 07, 2011 through March 21, 2012 and equipped with SMI "Prolo" roof hatches.

**3. The total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the noncompliance are:**

1,406

**4. The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the noncompliance is:**

17%

**5. The noncompliance consists of:**

The opening force required to open the SMI Prolo roof hatches installed on the above referenced Blue Bird buses may exceed the 40 pound maximum prescribed by FMVSS 217 by an average of 7 lbs.



**6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the noncompliance:**

On June 04, 2012 Blue Bird received a notification letter from SMI indicating that a noncompliance to FMVSS 217 opening force may exist on certain of its Prolo roof hatches manufactured from April 1, 2011 through March 25, 2012 and shipped to Blue Bird. SMI advised that while the hatches will open as designed, more opening force may be needed than is allowed.

Based on SMI's determination of a noncompliance with FMVSS 217, on June 07, 2012 Blue Bird decided to issue a recall notification to all owners of Blue Bird buses that are equipped with the subject roof hatches.

**7. The noncompliance will be corrected in the following manner:**

SMI will replace the suspect components with a Prolo Repair Service kit. The kit will be sent to all owners of Blue Bird buses equipped with the subject roof hatches.

**8. Notification will be as follows:**

Blue Bird dealer notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on June 21, 2012.  
Blue Bird owner notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on June 21, 2012.  
SMI advises the "Prolo" Service Repair kits are available.

**9. Blue Bird's identification number assigned to this recall is:**

R12VE

**10. Dealer and Owner notification:**

A draft copy of the notification documents will be submitted to NHTSA for review prior to mailing.

**Questions regarding this recall should be directed to:**

William P. Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
Blue Bird Corporation  
P.O. Box 937  
Fort Valley GA 31030  
(478) 822-2242

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*William P. Coleman*

William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator