



**Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC**  
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Rafael Dominguez  
Director, Quality & Product Safety  
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July 10, 2012

**VIA EMAIL** [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov)

Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation (NEF-111)  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Recall Campaign for Bendix® Brake Valve Plunger  
*12E-020*

Dear Ms. Timian:

Enclosed please find a representative copy of a communication that relates directly to the product defect that is the subject of the referenced recall campaign, which communication was sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer or purchaser. These communications are the notification letters sent to the vehicle manufacturers. Bendix hereby submits these materials to NHTSA pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §573.6(c)(10).

If you have any questions after reviewing the enclosed materials, please feel to contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rafael R. Dominguez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rafael R. Dominguez  
Director, Quality and Product Safety

cc: K. Schuler, NHTSA



July 10, 2012

Bruce Miles  
Blue Bird Corporation  
402 Blue Bird Blvd.  
Fort Valley, GA 31030

Dear Mr. Miles:

### **IMPORTANT RECALL INFORMATION**

This is to inform you that Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix) notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the start of a voluntary safety recall campaign involving a brake valve plunger used in multiple Bendix® brand foot brake valve models and treadle assemblies. The recall has been assigned number 12E-020.

A copy of our June 8, 2012, Defect and Noncompliance Information Report to NHTSA was sent to you via email on June 8, 2012. As required by law, Bendix provided NHTSA a list of all vehicle manufacturer customers to whom Bendix sold the affected products. Blue Bird Corporation is one of the customers who may be affected by this recall. We are providing you with this information to enable your business to determine whether there is a safety-related defect on your vehicles where the affected brake valve plunger has been installed.

Based on your determination, you may need to file a 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with respect to new motor vehicles with an affected Bendix® brake valve/plunger sold in the United States. A similar notification is required to Transport Canada for all impacted vehicles sold in Canada.

### **COVERED PRODUCT**

This recall includes Bendix brake valve plungers, part number 237548, manufactured from July 27, 2011 through May 18, 2012 and used in plunger kits, treadle assemblies and some brake valve models. This issue potentially affects a very select population of vehicles built during this time frame.

Our records indicate that Blue Bird purchased the following suspect valves from Bendix:

<b>Bendix® Part Number</b>	<b>Bendix® Brake Valve</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
5006290	Bendix® E-10PR™ Brake Valve	12

#### **PROBLEM DESCRIPTION**

Bendix has determined that an unapproved manufacturing modification at a Bendix sub-supplier has led to a potential defect in the brake valve plunger. The modification resulted in a thin wall section that can potentially develop a fracture during a brake application, resulting in reduced brake pedal angle and travel.

The detection to the driver is a reduced brake pedal angle and travel. While sufficient pressure is delivered to enable a brake application, this condition may limit the driver's ability to deliver full pressure from the foot brake valve. It is important to note that during the brake application, service brakes are still available. There is also a potential that the brake plunger could become lodged and not allow release of the service brakes. There have been no reports of any injuries or accidents related to this issue.

#### **STEPS ALREADY TAKEN**

During the first week of June 2012 Bendix representatives spoke with members of the quality team at Blue Bird to notify them of this issue and recall. They were also provided detailed shipping information so that your organization could begin sorting both plant inventories and vehicles still within your possession. Your cooperation in completing this activity has helped greatly limit the impact of this campaign in the field.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

Bendix has established a permanent remedy kit (K081930) which is available for you with instructions to replace the plungers. This remedy is a no cost solution to you.

We value our business relationship with you. We regret the inconvenience that may result from these circumstances, and we sincerely appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Bendix account manager, customer service representative, or me.

Very truly yours,



Rafael Dominguez  
Director, Quality and Product Safety



July 10, 2012

Patrick Retailleau  
Novabus  
1000, Boulevard Industriel  
Saint-Eustache (Quebec)  
Canada J7R 5A5

Dear Mr. Retailleau:

### **IMPORTANT RECALL INFORMATION**

This is to inform you that Bendix Commercial Vehicle Systems LLC (Bendix) notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of the start of a voluntary safety recall campaign involving a brake valve plunger used in multiple Bendix® brand foot brake valve models and treadle assemblies. The recall has been assigned number 12E-020.

A copy of our June 8, 2012, Defect and Noncompliance Information Report to NHTSA was sent to you via email on June 8, 2012. As required by law, Bendix provided NHTSA a list of all vehicle manufacturer customers to whom Bendix sold the affected products. Novabus is one of the customers who may be affected by this recall. We are providing you with this information to enable your business to determine whether there is a safety-related defect on your vehicles where the affected brake valve plunger has been installed.

Based on your determination, you may need to file a 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) with respect to new motor vehicles with an affected Bendix® brake valve/plunger sold in the United States. A similar notification is required to Transport Canada for all impacted vehicles sold in Canada.

### **COVERED PRODUCT**

This recall includes Bendix brake valve plungers, part number 237548, manufactured from July 27, 2011 through May 18, 2012 and used in plunger kits, treadle assemblies and some brake valve models. This issue potentially affects a very select population of vehicles built during this time frame.

Our records indicate that Novabus purchased the following suspect valves from Bendix:

<b>Bendix® Part Number</b>	<b>Bendix® Brake Valve</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
K043079	Bendix® E-10™ Brake Valve	435

#### **PROBLEM DESCRIPTION**

Bendix has determined that an unapproved manufacturing modification at a Bendix sub-supplier has led to a potential defect in the brake valve plunger. The modification resulted in a thin wall section that can potentially develop a fracture during a brake application, resulting in reduced brake pedal angle and travel.

The detection to the driver is a reduced brake pedal angle and travel. While sufficient pressure is delivered to enable a brake application, this condition may limit the driver's ability to deliver full pressure from the foot brake valve. It is important to note that during the brake application, service brakes are still available. There is also a potential that the brake plunger could become lodged and not allow release of the service brakes. There have been no reports of any injuries or accidents related to this issue.

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Rafael Dominguez  
Director, Quality and Product Safety