



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 14, 2013

Mr. Rick Eckert
A-Z Bus Sales, Inc.
1900 S Riverside Ave
Colton, CA 92324

NVS-215KS
13V-504

Subject: Flip Seat/Possible Toe or foot pinch

Dear Mr. Eckert:

This letter serves to acknowledge A-Z Bus Sales, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

BLUE BIRD/A3RE/2005-2013
BLUE BIRD/D3RE/2005-2013

Mfr's Report Date: September 13, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-504

Components:

SEATS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 402

Problem Description:

A-Z Bus Sales, Inc. (A-Z Bus) is recalling certain model year 2005-2013 Blue Bird A3RE and D3RE school buses equipped with C.E. White-brand flip seats.

Consequence:

When a Flip Seat is installed in front of another passenger seat, it is possible for the occupant of the rearward passenger seat to insert their toes and/or foot into the lower frame area of the Flip Seat. When a vehicle passenger occupies the Flip Seat, pushing the seat bottom downward to the horizontal position to sit in the seat, the occupant of the rearward seat could suffer a pinch point injury to their toes and/or foot.

Remedy:

A-Z Bus Sales will notify the school bus owners of the safety recall. A-Z Bus Sales will install a safety guard to cover the gap in the lower frame of the flip seat. A notification schedule for this campaign has not yet been established. Owners can contact A-Z Bus at 1-800-437-5522 or C. E. White at 1-419-492-2157 for more information.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. It is required that owners will be sent a letter, on the manufacturer's letterhead, informing them of the safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

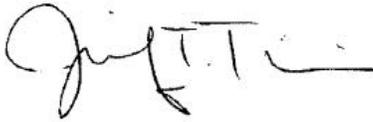
You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

On August 20, 2013, NHTSA announced new changes to the requirements governing safety recalls. Some of these requirements are already in effect. Please ensure your company will be in compliance with each requirement on, or before, its respective effective date. For a summary of the requirements and their effective dates please click on the "New!" link at <http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Manufacturers>.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement