



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 9, 2013

Mr. William Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company
PO Box 937
Fort Valley, GA 31030

NVS-215KS
13V-543

Subject: Front Suspension Bolts may Break

Dear Mr. Coleman:

This letter serves to acknowledge Blue Bird Body Company'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/ALL AMERICAN/2014
BLUE BIRD/CONVENTIONAL/2014

Mfr's Report Date: October 30, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-543

Components:

SUSPENSION:FRONT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 1,747

Problem Description:

Blue Bird Corporation (Blue Bird) is recalling certain model year 2014 All American and Conventional school buses manufactured July 2, 2013, through October 3, 2013 and equipped with front suspension bolts marked with a "ZY" code on the bolt head. Due to a problem in the bolt manufacturing process, the bolts that hold the front suspension may break.

Consequence:

A broken suspension bolt would require greater steering input to control the bus, thereby increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Blue Bird will notify owners, and dealers will inspect the front suspension bolts. Any bolts with a "ZY" code will be replaced free of charge. The recall is expected to in mid-December 2013. Owners may contact Blue Bird at 1-478-822-2242. Blue Bird's number for this recall is R13WR.

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.

We have received Blue Bird's proposed owner notification letter and it is currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

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