



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 13, 2013

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

NVS-215KS
13V-579

Subject: Driver's Seat Belt Buckle may not Unlatch

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/VISION/2014

Mfr's Report Date: November 20, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-579

Components:

SEAT BELTS:FRONT:BUCKLE ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 802

Problem Description:

Blue Bird Body Company (Blue Bird) is recalling certain model year 2014 Vision and All American model school buses manufactured August 23, 2013, through November 6, 2013 and equipped with IMMI-brand L9 driver's seat belts. When the button is pressed to release the seat belt, the latch plate can become partially engaged with the buckle, preventing the seat belt from unlatching. Thus, this equipment fails to conform to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 209, "Seat Belt Assemblies."

Consequence:

If the seat belt buckle stays latched when the button is pressed, there is an increased risk of injury in an emergency, or the seat belt may not properly release in the event of an accident.

Remedy:

Blue Bird will notify owners, and dealers will inspect the seat belt buckle, and if necessary, replace the seat belt buckle, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin on December 19, 2013. Owners may contact Blue Bird at 1-478-822-2242. Blue Bird's recall number R13WS.

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:

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