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13V-332
(3 pages)



BLUE BIRD

July 31, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis,

In accordance with the requirements of CFR 49 Part 573.6 Blue Bird Corporation is submitting the attached defect report.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on July 31, 2013.

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 573.6 Noncompliance Report for Recall R13WM Adhesive Omitted at
Transit Sliding Window Interior and Exterior Body Panel Joints

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY

P.O. Box 937 – 402 Blue Bird Blvd – Fort Valley, Georgia – (478) 825-2021



BLUE BIRD

49 CFR, PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Noncompliance Report

Report Date: July 31, 2013

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

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

2. The following vehicles are being recalled:

Certain 2007 through 2014 model year Blue Bird All American and Vision model school buses manufactured from March 10, 2006 through June 18, 2013 and equipped with optional transit sliding windows

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

172

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

100%

5. The noncompliance consists of:

Adhesive required to meet FMVSS 221 "School Bus Body Joint Strength" may have been inadvertently omitted at the interior and exterior body window panel joints when optional transit sliding windows were installed on school buses.

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

On July 16, 2013 it was discovered that the joint adhesive required to meet FMVSS 221 "School Bus Body Joint Strength" may have been omitted at the joints of the interior and exterior body window panels on school buses equipped with optional transit sliding windows.



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A subsequent review of the manufacturing procedures and process for the installation of the interior and exterior transit sliding window body panels for school buses was conducted. The review determined the established manufacturing procedures and process for installing adhesive at the transit sliding window body panel joints may not have been followed.

On July 29, 2013 Blue Bird decided to issue a recall to dealers and owners to correct this noncompliance.

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

Additional rivets will be installed at both the interior and exterior transit sliding window body panel joints to ensure joints conform to FMVSS 221 "School Bus Body Joint Strength" requirements.

8. Notification will be as follows:

Blue Bird dealer notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on August 30, 2013.
Blue Bird owner notification letter is scheduled to be mailed on August 30, 2013.
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R13WM

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 Body Company
P.O. Box 937
Fort Valley GA 31030
(478) 822-2242

Signed: _____

William P. Coleman

William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator