



BLUE BIRD

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14V-309  
(3 pages)

June 05, 2014

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 Body Company is submitting the attached defect report.

This report was emailed to Kelly Schuler at NHTSA on June 04, 2014.

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 Defect Report for Recall R14XE Steering Column Shaft Lower Clamp May  
Contact Rubber Close Out Boot

**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**

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



**BLUE BIRD**

**PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting**

**Defect Report-School Bus**

**Report Date:** June 05, 2014

**1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:**

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

**2. The following vehicles are being recalled:**

Certain 2012 through 2015 model year Blue Bird All American school buses manufactured from August 20, 2011 through May 21, 2014.

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

2,539 school buses

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

Unknown

**5. The defect consists of:**

The steering shaft clamp may contact the rubber boot at the floor resulting in increased steering wheel turning effort.

**6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the defect.**

On September 03, 2013 Blue Bird received its first report of the steering shaft lower clamp contacting the rubber close out boot. Blue Bird began to monitor this issue.

In May 2014 a follow up search of warranty claims and call center reports found 46 instances of this issue. As a result, tests were conducted to determine if increased steering effort occurred when the steering shaft clamp contacted the rubber closeout boot. The test found that when the steering shaft lower clamp contacted the rubber closeout boot the steering effort was increased.

On June 04, 2014 Blue Bird determined the increased steering effort could potentially result in a vehicle crash and decided to conduct a recall to correct this issue. To date no reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition have been received.

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**BLUE BIRD**

**7. The defect will be corrected in the following manner:**

The clamp that retains the rubber boot to the bottom of the steering shaft will be removed and rubber boot relocated at a higher point on the steering shaft. A new clamp will be installed to retain the rubber boot in the new location. If rubber boot is torn, boot will be replaced.

**8. Notification will be as follows:**

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on June 26, 2014.  
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on June 26, 2014.  
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

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

R14XE

**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 Corporation  
P.O. Box 937  
Fort Valley GA 31030  
(478) 822-2242

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*William P. Coleman*

William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator