



BLUE BIRD

FINAL NOTICE

DATE: JULY 2, 2015

TO: BLUE BIRD OWNERS

**SUBJECT: RECALL R14XF PASSENGER COMPARTMENT HEATER HOSE
FAILURE**

According to our records, we have not received confirmation that the above referenced recall dated July 15, 2014 has been completed. A copy of Recall R14XF is attached.

Your buses affected by Recall R14XF are identified by Blue Bird body number and VIN under Section 2 on the enclosed cover sheet.

If this is the first time you received notification of Recall R14XF, please read the enclosed notification carefully and follow the instructions provided. Recall R14XF must be completed as soon as possible.

If you have already had R14XF performed on your affected buses, please complete and mail the enclosed pink R14XF recall reply sheet to us in the enclosed postage paid pink reply envelope so we may update our recall records. Be sure the reply sheet is filled out properly.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hancock

Lisa Hancock
Corporate Recall Administrator



BLUE BIRD

R14XF

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

**NHTSA RECALL NO. 14V-313 SCHOOL BUS
NHTSA RECALL NO. 14V-314 NON-SCHOOL BUS**

July 15, 2014

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This important safety recall notice applies to your buses identified by both Blue Bird body number and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the attached yellow cover sheet.

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Body Company has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2008 through 2013 model year Blue Bird All American rear engine model school and non-school buses manufactured from April 03, 2007 through December 15, 2012 and equipped with optional Cummins ISC and ISL-G CNG engines.

On the subject buses, the original engine thermostat, under certain conditions at high engine RPM, may cause a high pressure pulsation in the coolant flow. This pulsation could over time weaken the inner lining of the heater supply hose in the passenger compartment resulting in the potential for the hose to fail and allow hot coolant to enter the passenger compartment. Personal injury could occur should passengers come in contact with the hot engine coolant. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

To remedy this defect, the engine thermostat will be changed to a new "barrel-type" thermostat which does not have the tendency to create a pulsation at high engine RPM. In addition, all coolant supply hoses within the passenger compartment will be replaced and protective covers placed over the joint connections at each underseat heater.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by this recall are identified by both body serial number(s) and vehicle identification number (VIN) on the enclosed yellow and pink reply sheets. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the yellow reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

You may contact your Blue Bird dealer to arrange to have this recall performed. Or, if you prefer, you may perform this recall yourself or have a qualified repair facility convenient to you perform this recall. A qualified technician should perform this recall.

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY

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



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R14XF

To receive replacement parts for Recall R14XF sign and return the enclosed yellow reply sheet to Blue Bird in the pink, self-addressed, postage prepaid envelope. Be sure to provide a valid shipping address as UPS does not deliver to P.O. Boxes. You should retain a copy of the reply sheet for your records.

Labor time to perform recall R14XF is 4.2 hours.

Reimbursement for labor may be obtained by completing the pink "Labor Reimbursement" sheet provided and returning it to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope. Labor Reimbursement sheets may also be faxed to 478-822-2467.

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the recall reply sheet and attach a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the **pink** self-addressed postage paid envelope included with the recall notification to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

Or, you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236 TTY 1-800-424-9153 Or, go to: [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV)

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Sincerely,

Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Body Company



Coolant Thermostat and Passenger Compartment Heater Hose Replacement

Models Affected: 2008-2013 TX3, TX4, and All American Rear Engine Buses
with Cummins ISC & ISL Engines

ISSUE

The original engine thermostat, under certain conditions at high engine RPM, may cause a high pressure pulsation in the coolant flow. This pulsation could, over time, weaken the inner lining of the heater supply hose in the passenger compartment resulting in the potential for the hose to fail and allow hot engine coolant to enter the passenger compartment.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The engine thermostat will be changed to a new 'barrel-type' thermostat which does not have the tendency to create a pulsation at high engine RPM. In addition, all coolant supply hoses within the passenger compartment will be replaced and protective covers placed over the joint connections at each underseat heater.

PROCEDURE

WARNING: Always follow all Federal, State, Local, and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment, and thoroughly read and understand all instructions before performing these procedures.

WARNING: Do not remove the pressure cap from a hot engine. Wait until the coolant temperature is below 50°C [120°F] before removing the pressure cap. Heated coolant spray or steam can cause personal injury.

WARNING: Coolant is toxic. Keep away from children and pets. If not reused, dispose of in accordance with local environmental regulations.

Thermostat Replacement

1. Park the bus on a level surface, apply parking brake, switch engine off, remove ignition key and chock wheels.
2. Disconnect batteries. (negative[-] cable first, then positive[+])
3. Drain the coolant per *Cooling System Drain, Flush & Refill* section in your Blue Bird service manual.
4. Remove the radiator hose from the water outlet connection. (Fig. 1)

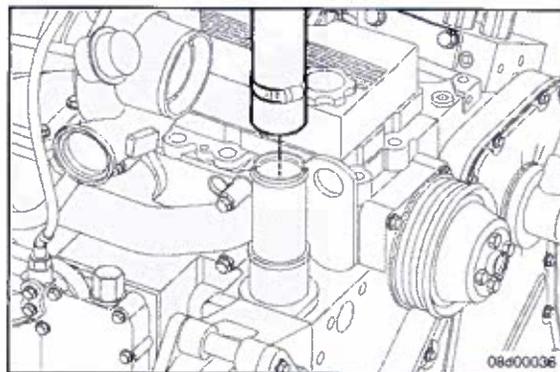


Fig. 1

RECALL CAMPAIGN R14XF



Coolant Thermostat and Passenger Compartment Heater Hose Replacement

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RECALL CAMPAIGN

Thermostat Replacement (continued)

5. Remove the water outlet connection capscrews and water outlet connection. (Fig. 2)
6. Remove the thermostat and discard. (Fig. 2)

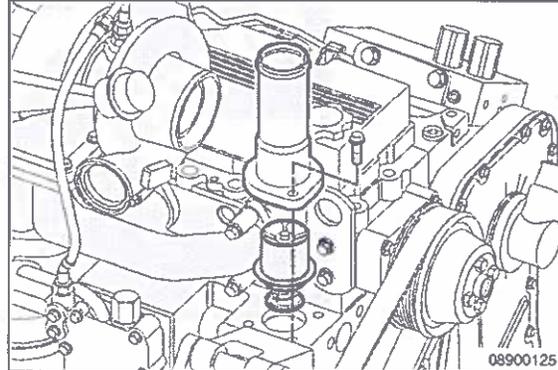


Fig. 2

7. Clean all of the mating surfaces. (Fig 3)

NOTE: Do not let any debris fall into the thermostat cavity when cleaning the surfaces.

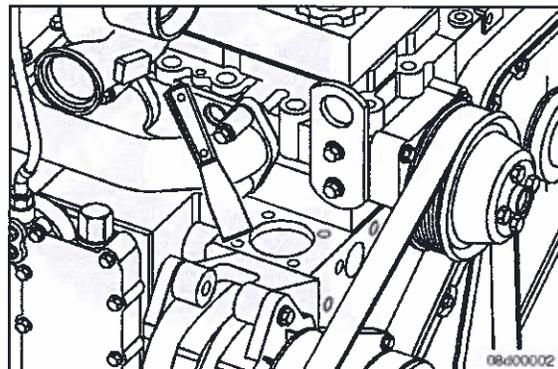


Fig. 3

8. Install the new thermostat (BB# 10032468) into the water outlet connection. Make sure the top and bottom o-rings are in place. If the o-rings are damaged, replace with new o-rings. (Fig. 4)
9. Install the water outlet connection and mounting capscrews. (Fig. 4)
Torque Value: 24 nm [212 in-lb]

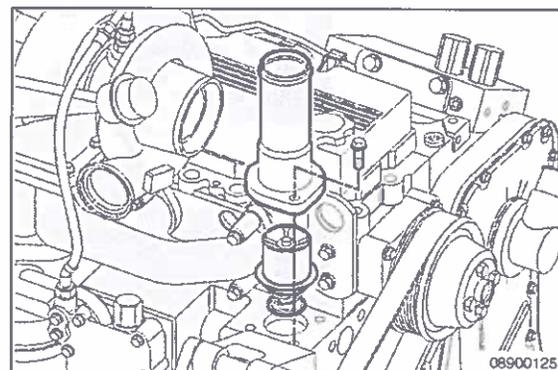


Fig. 4



Coolant Thermostat and Passenger Compartment Heater Hose Replacement

RECALL

Thermostat Replacement (continued)

- 10. Install radiator hose on the water outlet connection. (Fig. 5)
Torque: 7.50 – 8.30 FT-LBS.
- 11. Thermostat replacement complete. Proceed to Heater Hose Replacement.

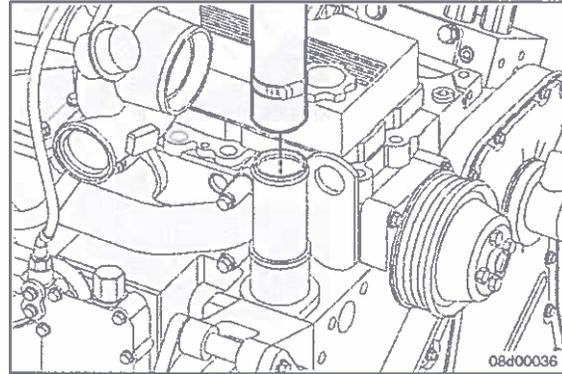


Fig. 5

Parts List		
Part #	Description	Qty
10032468	THERMOSTAT,ENGINE COOLANT SYSTEM,CUMMINS	1

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R E C A L L C A M P A I G N



Coolant Thermostat and Passenger Compartment Heater Hose Replacement

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R E C A L L C A M P A I G N

Heater Hose Replacement

1. Check if heater supply/return hoses were connected to engine correctly per Fig 1 hose routing. *If hoses are not connected correctly at engine supply/return manual shutoff valves, replace only the section of hose inside bus from bulkhead connector to first heater. Disconnect/reconnect "supply/return" hoses in engine compartment per Fig 1 supply/return hose routing.*
2. Disconnect supply heaters coolant hose at engine cutoff valve (see Fig 1).
3. With 10 p.s.i. of shop air pressure, blow air through supply hose to remove coolant from heater system (see Fig 1 for location of supply hose in engine compartment).
4. Inside bus, remove heater hose covers to gain access to heaters supply hose.
5. Remove original heaters supply hose inside passenger compartment only and replace with new hose part no. 10023231 (see Fig 1). Torque all heater hose clamps to 34 inch lbs.
6. Reinstall passenger compartment heater hose covers. If gap is present at hose wheelhousings *transition* covers, install bulb seal part no. 10020905 on end and foam tape part no. 00830059 on flange of transition cover to close out gaps per Fig 2.
7. At each underseat heater, remove seat cushion and install heater pipe cover part no. 10033962. Back drill .056 hole on each side and attach cover with two #10 screws part no. 01589522 per Fig 3. Reinstall seat cushion
8. Reconnect batteries (positive {+} cable first, then negative {-}).
9. Fill engine cooling/heater system per *COOLANT FILL PROCEDURE* (see Fig 4).

See Service Update SU1315 *CUMMINS COOLANT in CUMMINS ENGINES* for approved coolant.

10. Operate engine and check for coolant leaks.

Parts List		
Part #	Description	Qty (per bus)
10023231	HOSE,HEATER,EPDM STANDARD,1 I.D.	30 FT
10020905	SEAL,BULB,CLIP-ON,ELECTRICAL ACCESS DOOR	2 FT
00830059	TAPE,FOAM,1/2X3/4,CLSD CELL NEOPRENE ADH BK	2 FT
10033962	COVER,TRIM,PIPE,U/S HEATER	2
01589522	SCREW,10-16 X 3/4,AB,PH1,PAN HD,YEL ZN	4



Coolant Thermostat and Passenger Compartment Heater Hose Replacement

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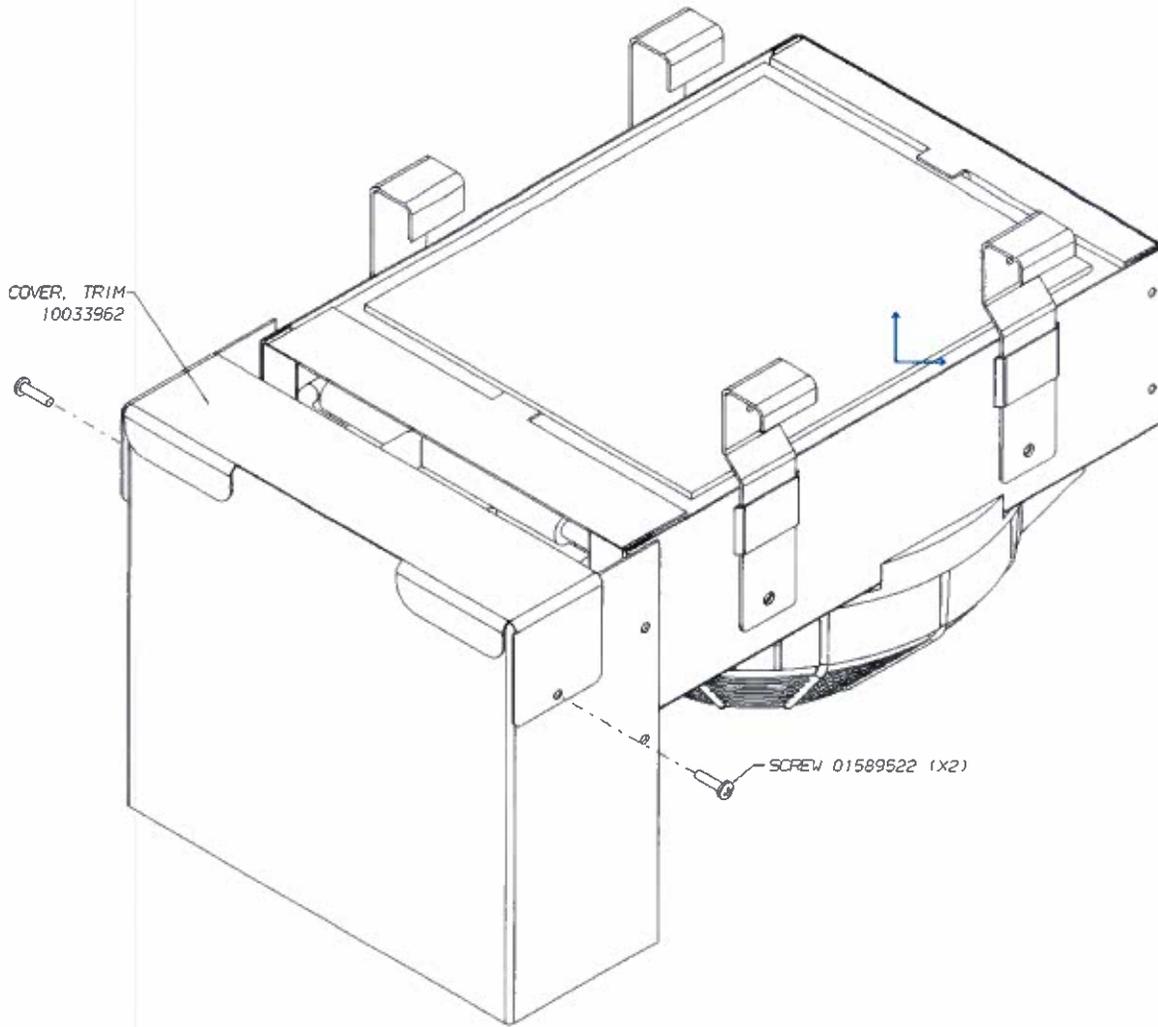


Fig. 3

RECALL CAMPAIGN R14XF



Coolant Thermostat and Passenger Compartment Heater Hose Replacement

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COOLANT FILL PROCEDURE T3/Y3RE 2013

1. OPEN CAB HEATER SUPPLY VALVE AND CLOSE CAB HEATER RETURN VALVE.
2. OPEN THE CAB HEATER BLEEDER VALVE IN THE CAB HEATER RETURN LINE.
3. OPEN UPPER RADIATOR PIPE BLEEDER VALVE NEAR ENGINE COOLANT OUTLET.
4. TURN ON IGNITION TO THE "ON" POSITION, TURN ON HEATER BOOSTER PUMP AND SET DEFROST TEMPERATURE CONTROL TO FULL HOT.
5. FILL COOLANT SYSTEM TO THE "COLD FULL" LINE ON THE TANK.
6. CLOSE THE UPPER RADIATOR PIPE BLEEDER VALVE AS SOON AS COOLANT IS PRESENT AT THE VALVE.
7. LET SYSTEM SETTLE FOR 5 MINUTES, THEN REFILL TO "COLD FULL" LINE (CLOSE CAB HEATER BLEEDER VALVE ONCE COOLANT IS PRESENT AT VALVE).
8. OPEN THE CAB HEATER RETURN VALVE.
9. START ENGINE AND IDLE ONLY LONG ENOUGH FOR THE COOLANT LEVEL IN THE TANK TO STABILIZE AND THEN TURN OFF THE ENGINE.
10. REFILL TANK TO "COLD FULL" LINE.
11. RESTART ENGINE AND IDLE FOR FIVE MINUTES. REFILL TANK TO "COLD FULL" LINE WHILE THE ENGINE IS STILL RUNNING.
12. RUN ENGINE AT GOVERNED SPEED UNTIL ENGINE THERMOSTAT OPENS AND THEN FOR ANOTHER 15-20 MINUTES.
13. RETURN ENGINE TO IDLE AND REFILL TANK TO THE "HOT FULL" LINE IF NEEDED.
14. INSTALL CAP ON TANK. COOLING SYSTEM IS NOW FULLY OPERATIONAL.

Fig. 4

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