

R00DX

June 26, 2000

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

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 determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 1998, 1999 and 2000 year model Blue Bird All American and TC/2000 school and transit buses equipped with air brakes and LTC 40, Q'Bus and Commercial Series transit buses equipped with air brakes. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

The defect involves the quick release diaphragm in the Bendix QR1C valve in the brake system. A design change by Bendix added a hole in the valve quick release diaphragm. When this hole aligns with the hole in the valve body, the brake application time increases. Under certain conditions, such as when bus is parked on an incline, the driver removes his foot from the brake treadle valve and then applies the parking brake, the bus could roll before the parking brake is fully engaged. Therefore, Blue Bird is conducting a recall to change the Bendix QR1C valve quick release diaphragm.

All affected units must be modified according to the instructions provided by Bendix with each kit. Your Blue Bird bus (es) affected by recall R00DX are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed reply sheets.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to this defect is the potential for the vehicle to move without warning in the event driver removes his foot from the brake treadle prior to applying the parking brake.

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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 perform this modification yourself or have the work done by a qualified repair facility convenient to you. You may contact your Blue Bird distributor for assistance.

Upon completion of the recall, the owner should complete and return the pink reply sheet in the postage-prepaid envelope provided. The owner may request reimbursement of labor costs by completing the appropriate section of the pink reply sheet. If repair is performed by other than the owner or a Blue Bird distributor, attach a copy of the paid work order/invoice to the reply sheet.

Time required to perform recall R00DX is 0.2 hours per bus for units equipped with spring suspension and 0.5 hours for units equipped with air suspension.

Important: Your prompt return of the pink reimbursement sheet, complete with the correct Body Serial Numbers, permits Blue Bird to update the record indicating recall has been completed and prevents the mailing of a second notice. This is much appreciated. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

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
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

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

1-800-424-9393

Washington D.C. residents may call 202-366-0123.

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (912) 822-2242.

Thank you,

Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator

