

**R02GA**

July 31, 2002

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 Blue Bird Wanderlodge Motor Homes and LTC Tour Coaches delivered from April 30, 1998 through April 18, 2002.

Allison Transmissions has notified Blue Bird Body Company that a required "CHECK TRANS" indicator light was omitted on subject coaches. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety is in the event the transmission shift selector malfunctions (looses power or sends erroneous signals to the transmission electronic control unit) the computer will stop accepting input from the electronic shift selector unit. If this condition occurs, the transmission will be held in the last valid range selected. Although the single digit range selected display on the shift selector will be blank or a dash (-), the driver may not be aware that a malfunction has occurred. The driver may shift the transmission selector to change direction and the transmission would not recognize it and remain in the original direction resulting in the potential for an accident.

As a precaution, the driver should visually check the digital display on the shift selector when performing direction changes to assure the range selected was attained. A blank or dash (-) in the shift selector display is an indication that a malfunction has occurred and the coach may move in a direction opposite to that selected.

You should have this condition corrected immediately. Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R02GA are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed 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.

To receive "Check Trans" light installation kits and modification instructions, verify correct shipping address, sign and return the enclosed **yellow** parts request sheet and return it to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid reply envelope. Modification kits with instructions will be shipped "No Charge" to you via UPS or common carrier. Modification kits will be available beginning August 16, 2002.

Time required to install the "CHECK TRANS" light is one (1) hour per coach.

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 dealer for assistance. Reimbursement for labor may be obtained by completing the pink request for reimbursement sheet provided and returning it to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

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:

1-888-327-4236

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

Thank you,

Bill Coleman  
Recall Administrator  
**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**

**RECALL R02GA  
ALLISON "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION  
LTC-40 COACHES**

**Instructions for LTC-40 manufactured from January 05, 1998 through October 15, 2000:**

***Cautionary Measures***

1. Prior to disassembly, familiarize yourself with the instructions and the parts to be installed.
2. Park vehicle on a level surface, set parking brake, and remove keys from ignition.
3. Chock wheels.
4. Remove battery ground cable(s) or remove battery potential from the electrical system using the master disconnect switch.
5. Open the cover to the side load center under the operator's window.

***Transmission Selector Assembly***

1. Locate transmission push button selector and bezel assembly on driver's left hand side panel. Remove the bezel hold-down screws (4).
2. Lift up on the assembly and disconnect the harness cable.
3. Turn the assembly over and remove the adhesive tape around the transmission selector housing.
4. With the selector in the normal viewing position, replace the old bezel with the new locating the warning lamp hole towards the upper right corner. The black textured surface should be visible.
5. Holding the selector assembly against the bezel, secure the two together using the foam adhesive tape around the housing perimeter against the backside of the bezel.
6. Remove the two screws on the end of the lamp blade terminals.
7. Before installing the 'Check Trans' warning lamp assembly into the 11/16" hole, make sure the red lens is finger tight. Align the lettering to read correctly and secure using the lock washer and nut supplied. Tighten the hex nut to 3 N-m (27 lb in).
8. Set assembly aside (to be installed after harness installation).

## **R02GA "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION-LTC-40 COACHES**

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**LTC-40 Coaches manufactured from January 05, 1998 through October 15, 2000:  
(continued)**

#### ***Instrument Panel***

**CAUTION:** The instrument panel used on this vehicle utilizes high voltage electro-luminescent lighting. To prevent serious personal injury, make sure all power sources are disconnected before servicing.

1. Remove the instrument panel hold-down screws.
2. Place a protective covering over the top half of the instrument panel housing to protect the surface.
3. Pull the instrument panel forward and place it on top of the protective covering for access to the harness electrical connectors.
4. Locate instrument panel harness connector (may be designated P11) that connects to the chassis harness connector containing the following circuit in terminal location 1 - 1410 LT BL / BK for Engine Oil Temperature (chassis harness).
5. Holding the instrument panel connector, remove the electrical tape around the wire circuits and the connector strain relief by removing the two screws holding the cable clamp and turning the shell. Once the strain relief is moved away from the connector body, the wiring terminal block will become visible. Identify the open wire terminal position #17.
6. Insert the terminal socket on the end of the gray/black wire completely into the empty terminal position #17 until it locks into place. Tape the harness wires together as before and reinstall the cable strain relief. Reconnect the instrument panel connector to the chassis harness connector.
7. Route the ring terminal and fuse assembly around the shifter control panel and into the side load center towards the ignition solenoid (relay). Bring the two wire ends with the 1/4" terminal sockets into the shifter panel area.
8. Install the two 1/4" female terminal assemblies onto the lamp terminal ends. Polarity is not important. It is important that the open rolled end of the wire terminals are pushed onto the inside surface of the blade terminals to prevent accidental bending. Tie strap the warning lamp harness for proper orientation.
9. Reinstall the shifter panel and tighten the four screws. Check all work and make certain that all wiring circuits on the rear of the instrument panel are properly connected. Reinstall the instrument panel and tighten the screws.

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**LTC-40 Coaches manufactured from January 05, 1998 through October 15, 2000:  
(continued)**

10. Connect the rework harness ring terminal wire circuit containing the fuse assembly onto the switched side of the ignition relay. Adjust fit the wire harness and secure using tie straps.
  
11. Recheck all work and reconnect battery power. Start engine to check function of the "Check Trans" warning lamp. Each time the engine is started, the lamp will illuminate, then turn off after a few seconds to show that the status of the light circuit is working properly. Continued illumination of the "Check Trans" lamp during vehicle operation (other than start-up) indicates that the ECU has signaled a diagnostic code.

### Parts Required:

#### Kit A

Qty	Part No.	Description
1	0054186	"Check Trans" Light Assembly
1	0054819	Bezel, Shifter, 1998 LTC with Warning Lamp Hole
1	0054902	Harness, Service, Check Trans, Recall
4	0599704	Tie Cable, Nylon
2ft	3851557	Tape, Double Stick, 3m, .75W X .045 TK X 36 YD
1	NPN	Instructions, LTC-40, Mfg 01-05-98 thru 10-15-00

**RECALL R02GA  
ALLISON "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION  
LTC-40 COACHES**

**Instructions for LTC-40 coaches manufactured from October 16, 2000 through May 28, 2002:**

***Cautionary Measures***

1. Prior to disassembly, familiarize yourself with the instructions and the parts to be installed.
2. Park vehicle on a level surface, set parking brake, and remove keys from ignition.
3. Chock wheels.
4. Remove battery ground cable(s) or remove battery potential from the electrical system using the master disconnect switch.
5. Open the cover to the side load center under the operator's window.

***Instrument Panel***

**CAUTION:** The instrument panel used on this vehicle utilizes high voltage electro-luminescent lighting. To prevent serious personal injury, make sure all power sources are disconnected before servicing.

1. Remove the instrument panel hold-down screws.
2. Place a protective covering over the top half of the instrument panel housing to protect the surface.
3. Pull the instrument panel forward and place it on top of the protective covering for access to the harness electrical connectors.
4. Locate instrument panel harness connector (may be designated P11) that connects to the chassis harness connector containing the following circuit in terminal location 1 - 1410 LT BL / BK for Engine Oil Temperature (chassis harness).
5. Holding the instrument panel connector, remove the electrical tape around the wire circuits and the connector strain relief by removing the two screws holding the cable clamp and turning the shell. Once the strain relief is moved away from the connector body, the wiring terminal block will become visible. Identify the open wire terminal position #17.

## **R02GA "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION LTC-40 COACHES**

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#### **Instructions for LTC-40 coaches manufactured from October 16, 2000 through May 28, 2002 (continued)**

6. Insert the terminal socket on the end of the gray/black wire completely into the empty terminal position #17 until it locks into place. Tape the harness wires together as before and reinstall the cable strain relief. Reconnect the instrument panel connector to the chassis harness connector.
7. Check underside of the instrument panel just above the transmission selector for obstruction. At a distance of 1 ¼" from the top edge of the selector and on center with the transmission range display window, drill one 11/16" diameter hole.
8. Remove the two screws on the end of the lamp blade terminals.
9. Before installing the 'Check Trans' warning lamp assembly into the 11/16" hole, make sure the red lens is finger tight. Align the lettering to read correctly and secure using the lock washer and nut supplied. Tighten the hex nut to 3 N-m (27 lb in).
10. Install the two 1/4" female terminal assemblies onto the lamp terminal ends. Polarity is not important. It is important that the open rolled end of the wire terminals are pushed onto the inside surface of the blade terminals to prevent accidental bending. Tie strap the warning lamp harness.
11. Route the ring terminal and fuse assembly around the left hand side switch panel and into the side load center towards the ignition solenoid (relay). Tie strap the warning lamp harness for proper orientation.
12. Check all work and make certain that all wiring circuits on the rear of the instrument panel are properly connected. Reinstall the instrument panel and tighten the screws.
13. Connect the rework harness ring terminal wire circuit containing the fuse assembly onto the switched side of the ignition relay. Adjust fit the wire harness and secure using tie straps.
14. Recheck all work and reconnect battery power.

## R02GA "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION LTC-40 COACHES

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15. Start engine to check function of the "Check Trans" warning lamp. Each time the engine is started, the lamp will illuminate, then turn off after a few seconds to show that the status of the light circuit is working properly. Continued illumination of the "Check Trans" lamp during vehicle operation (other than start-up) indicates that the ECU has signaled a diagnostic code.

### Parts Required:

#### Kit B

Qty	Part No.	Description
1	0054186	"Check Trans" Light Assembly
1	0054902	Harness, Service, Check Trans, Recall
4	0599704	Tie Cable, Nylon
1	NPN	Instructions, LTC-40 Mfg 10-16-00 thru 05-28-02

**RECALL R02GA  
ALLISON "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION  
WANDERLODGE COACHES**

**Instructions for Wanderlodge LX AND LXi Coaches without steerable tag axle**

***Cautionary Measures***

1. Prior to disassembly, familiarize yourself with the instructions and the parts to be installed.
2. Park vehicle on a level surface, set parking brake, and remove keys from ignition.
3. Chock wheels.
4. Remove battery ground cable(s) or remove battery potential from the electrical system using the master disconnect switch.
5. Open the cover to the side load center under the operator's window.

***Instrument Panel***

**CAUTION:** The instrument panel used on this vehicle utilizes high voltage electro-luminescent lighting. To prevent serious personal injury, make sure all power sources are disconnected before servicing.

1. Remove the instrument panel hold-down screws.
2. Place a protective covering over the top half of the instrument panel housing to protect the surface.
3. Pull the instrument panel forward and place it on top of the protective covering for access to the harness electrical connectors.
4. Locate the warning lamp panel in the upper left corner of the instrument housing for "Hydraulic Oil Temperature". Remove the screws and lift forward to access the backside wiring.
5. Identify the two wire circuits leading to the red LED. Cut the leads at the splices, removing the butt connectors and restrip the wires ¼" from the ends. Set the old warning panel aside.
6. Using the new panel, run the lead wires for the "Hydraulic Oil Temperature" warning lamp through the panel opening and butt splice the LED wires to the previously identified circuits.

## **R02GA "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION WANDERLODGE COACHES**

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#### **Instructions for Wanderlodge LX AND LXi Coaches without steerable tag axle**

7. Locate instrument panel harness connector (may be designated P11) that connects to the chassis harness connector containing the following circuit in terminal location 1 - 1410 LT BL / BK for Engine Oil Temperature (chassis harness).
8. Holding the instrument panel connector, remove the electrical tape around the wire circuits and the connector strain relief by removing the two screws holding the cable clamp and turning the shell. Once the strain relief is moved away from the connector body, the wiring terminal block will become visible. Identify the open wire terminal position #17.
9. Insert the terminal socket on the end of the gray/black wire completely into the empty terminal position #17 until it locks into place. Tape the harness wires together as before and reinstall the cable strain relief. Reconnect the instrument panel connector to the chassis harness connector.
10. Install the two 1/4" female terminal assemblies onto the lamp terminal ends of the "Check Transmission" warning lamp. Polarity is not important. Tie strap the warning lamp harness.
11. Install the new panel using the screws that were removed in step four (4).
12. Route the ring terminal and fuse assembly around the left hand side switch panel and into the side load center towards the ignition solenoid (relay). Tie strap the warning lamp harness for proper orientation.
13. Check all work and make certain that all wiring circuits on the rear of the instrument panel are properly connected. Reinstall the instrument panel and tighten the screws.
14. Connect the rework harness ring terminal wire circuit containing the fuse assembly onto the switched side of the ignition relay. Adjust fit the wire harness and secure using tie straps.
15. Recheck all work and reconnect battery power.
16. Start engine to check function of the "Check Trans" warning lamp. Each time the engine is started, the lamp will illuminate, then turn off after a few seconds to show that the status of the light circuit is working properly. Continued illumination of the "Check Trans" lamp during vehicle operation (other than start-up) indicates that the ECU has signaled a diagnostic code.

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**Instructions for Wanderlodge LX AND LXi Coaches without steerable tag axle**

**Parts Required:**

**Kit C:**

Qty	Part No.	Description
1	0053468	Panel, Warning, Auxiliary, Rework, LX and LXi
3	1594845	Terminal, Butt Connector, 16-22
1	0053533	Harness, LX, LXi and LTC Check-Trans Light
4	0599704	Tie, Cable, Nylon

**RECALL R02GA**  
**ALLISON "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION**  
**WANDERLODGE COACHES**

**Instructions for Wanderlodge LXi Coaches with steerable tag axle**

***Cautionary Measures***

1. Prior to disassembly, familiarize yourself with the instructions and the parts to be installed.
2. Park vehicle on a level surface, set parking brake, and remove keys from ignition.
3. Chock wheels.
4. Remove battery ground cable(s) or remove battery potential from the electrical system using the master disconnect switch.
5. Open the cover to the side load center under the operator's window.

***Instrument Panel***

CAUTION: The instrument panel used on this vehicle utilizes high voltage electro-luminescent lighting. To prevent serious personal injury, make sure all power sources are disconnected before servicing.

1. Remove the instrument panel hold-down screws.
2. Place a protective covering over the top half of the instrument panel housing to protect the surface.
3. Pull the instrument panel forward and place it on top of the protective covering for access to the harness electrical connectors.
4. Locate the warning lamp panel in the upper left corner of the instrument housing for the "Hydraulic Oil Temperature" and "Tag Axle Unlocked" warning lamps. Remove the screws and lift forward to access the backside wiring.
5. Identify the four wire circuits leading to the red LED's. Cut the leads at the splices, removing the butt connectors and restrip the wires ¼" from the ends. Set the old warning panel aside.
6. Using the new panel, run the lead wires for the warning lamps through the panel opening and butt splice the LED wires to the previously identified circuits.

## R02GA "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION WANDERLODGE COACHES

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#### Instructions for Wanderlodge LXi coaches with steerable tag axle (continued)

7. Locate instrument panel harness connector (may be designated P11) that connects to the chassis harness connector containing the following circuit in terminal location 1 - 1410 LT BL / BK for Engine Oil Temperature (chassis harness).
8. Holding the instrument panel connector, remove the electrical tape around the wire circuits and the connector strain relief by removing the two screws holding the cable clamp and turning the shell. Once the strain relief is moved away from the connector body, the wiring terminal block will become visible. Identify the open wire terminal position #17.
9. Insert the terminal socket on the end of the gray/black wire completely into the empty terminal position #17 until it locks into place. Tape the harness wires together as before and reinstall the cable strain relief. Reconnect the instrument panel connector to the chassis harness connector.
10. Install the two 1/4" female terminal assemblies onto the lamp terminal ends of the "Check Transmission" warning lamp. Polarity is not important. Tie strap the warning lamp harness.
11. Install the new panel using the screws that were removed in step four (4).
12. Route the ring terminal and fuse assembly around the left hand side switch panel and into the side load center towards the ignition solenoid (relay). Tie strap the warning lamp harness for proper orientation.
13. Check all work and make certain that all wiring circuits on the rear of the instrument panel are properly connected. Reinstall the instrument panel and tighten the screws.
14. Connect the rework harness ring terminal wire circuit containing the fuse assembly onto the switched side of the ignition relay. Adjust fit the wire harness and secure using tie straps.
15. Recheck all work and reconnect battery power.
16. Start engine to check function of the "Check Trans" warning lamp. Each time the engine is started, the lamp will illuminate, then turn off after a few seconds to show that the status of the light circuit is working properly. Continued illumination of the "Check Trans" lamp during vehicle operation (other than start-up) indicates that the ECU has signaled a diagnostic code.

**R02GA "CHECK TRANS" LIGHT INSTALLATION WANDERLODGE COACHES**  
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**Instructions for Wanderlodge LXi coaches with steerable tag axle (continued)**

**Parts Required:**

**Kit D:**

Qty	Part No.	Description
1	0054588	Panel, Warning, Auxiliary, Rework, LX and LXi with Steerable Axle
6	1594845	Terminal, Butt Connector, 16-22
1	0053533	Harness, LX, LXi and LTC Check-Trans Light
4	0599704	Tie, Cable, Nylon
1	NPN	Instructions, Wanderlodge LXi <u>with</u> Steerable Tag Axle