

R03HL

December 08, 2003

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 Corporation has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain Blue Bird 2004 model year "Vision" (BBCV) conventional type school buses, **ONLY THOSE WITH AIR BRAKES**, manufactured from July 04, 2003 through November 21, 2003. Blue Bird Body Company is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

The defect involves the air brake parking valve plumbing located in a recessed cavity on the firewall under the engine compartment hood. This location may permit rainwater to enter into the parking brake exhaust port fitting. In freezing weather, this water could form ice blocking the exhaust port. When this occurs, the parking brake valve does not operate as designed.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety is in the event the condition described above should occur and the parking brake failed to apply, the bus could roll resulting in property damage or personal injury.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R03HL are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed reply sheets. **You should have this condition corrected immediately.**

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 you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the **pink** reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed **pink** postage prepaid envelope.

Parts required to remedy this defect are included with this owner notification.

A qualified technician should perform this modification or you may contact your Blue Bird distributor 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. Time required to perform recall R03HL is 0.2 hr (12 minutes) per bus.

If the modifications/repair directed by this modification was performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the recall reply sheet and attached 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.

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
Corporate Recall Administrator
BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY



BLUE BIRD

RECALL CAMPAIGN RO3HL

Park Brake Valve Exhaust Port Blockage

MODELS AFFECTED: 2004 Blue Bird Visions (BBCV) with Air Brakes

ISSUE

The air brake valve manifold on the Bendix designed Driver's Control Module may retain rain water runoff causing overflow into the parking brake valve exhaust port. In freezing temperatures the frozen water could block the exhaust port causing the parking brake valve to not operate as designed.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

A 3/8 inch O.D. air brake tubing extension is added to the exhaust valve port preventing water entry into the port.

PROCEDURE

- 1 Park vehicle on level surface, apply parking brake, remove ignition key and chock the wheels.

CAUTION If parking brake cannot be applied, driver must keep service brakes applied until technician can chock the wheels.

- 2 Raise the engine hood and locate the air brake manifold on the driver's control module.

- 3 Locate the park brake exhaust port. Remove any accumulated water before proceeding.

Note: Activate the park brake valve once to expel any water that may have settled in the exhaust port or line.

- 4 Insert the 3/8 inch air brake tubing extension into the park brake exhaust port until tube bottoms against the inside of the fitting.

- 5 Attach the tube to the existing air brake tubes with two cable ties and cut off the end of the ties.

- 6 Close the hood.

PARTS LIST

Quantity	Description
1 piece	3/8 inch O.D. Air Brake Tubing Extension.
2	Cable Ties.

