

R04HV

August 19, 2004

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 decided that certain 2005 model year Blue Bird All American (A3FE) front engine and (A3RE) rear engine school buses manufactured at the Fort Valley, GA. plant from May 24, 2004 through July 12, 2004 fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 221, (School Bus Body Joint Strength).

Rivets were omitted in the joint which connects the rear-most exterior roof sheet to the rear roof cap. In the event of a crash these panels may separate exposing the occupants to increased risk of injury.

Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this noncompliance. Buses with the noncompliance must be corrected according to the instructions provided with recall R04HV, copy attached.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R04HV 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 parts and instructions required to correct this condition, confirm your 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. Parts and instructions will be shipped "No Charge" to you via UPS.

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. Labor time required to perform recall R04HV is 1.5 hours per bus.

If the modifications/repair directed by this notification 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.

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
400 SEVENTH STREET, SW
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

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RECALL R04HV

REAR ROOF SHEET TO REAR ROOF CAP JOINT RIVET INSPECTION AND REPAIR PROCEDURES

ISSUE: The rivet pattern may be incorrect in sections of the rear roof sheet joint which attaches to the rear roof cap.

Corrective Action: Inspect rivet pattern on the rear roof sheet to rear roof cap joint and add missing rivets as required.

CAUTION: Be sure to observe all safety precautions when climbing and working on ladders or other equipment used to work on roof of bus.

1. Rear roof sheet to rear roof cap are assembled with one row of rivets spaced in line one (1) inch apart across entire roof cap and roof panel. Use the template provided to inspect for one (1) inch spacing between rivets. If more than one (1) inch spacing, add rivets per instructions below.
2. Using the template, mark each location that requires additional rivets.
3. For each additional rivet needed, using a short drill bit, drill a 17/64" diameter hole through roof cap, roof sheet and rear bow flange. Be sure to drill hole in line with existing rivets
4. Place a small amount of Vinyl Gray 5522 Sealant Blue Bird # 0898627 in each drilled hole.
5. Blue Bird will furnish 1/4 blind rivets BB # 1854397 already painted School Bus Chrome (yellow) or white for your bus. Install the correct color 1/4 blind rivets into each hole.
6. Clean any sealant that may have squeezed out during rivet installation.
7. Touch up the center of the blind rivet where the stem has been removed during installation with the correct color touch up paint.

PARTS LIST

Part Number	Description	Quantity/bus
1. 0898627	Tube, Vinyl Gray 5522 Sealant	1
2. 1854397	Rivet .25" Blind (both White and Yellow)	As Required



Rear Roof Cap Rivets

RECALL

MODELS AFFECTED: Some 2005 A3FEs & A3REs

ISSUE

On some units, the rivet pattern may be incorrect in sections of the rear roof sheet joint which attaches to the rear roof cap, resulting in noncompliance with FMVSS 221, School Bus Body Joint Strength.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

This procedure inspects the spacing of rivets at the joint and installs additional rivets as required by specification.

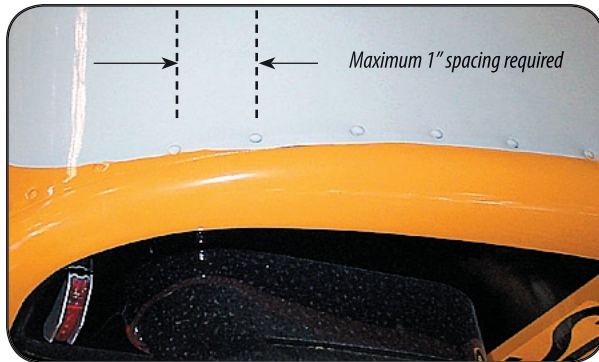
PARTS SUPPLIED

PART NUMBER	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
0898627	1 per bus	Tube, Vinyl Gray 5522 Sealant
1854397	as required	Rivet .25" Blind (both White and Yellow)

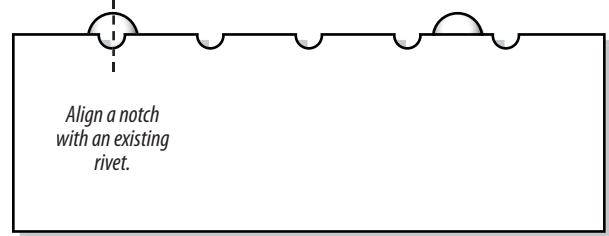
PROCEDURE

WARNING This procedure requires working from ladders or scaffold to reach the top of the bus. Observe all safety precautions to secure the bus from rolling and for climbing and working on ladders.

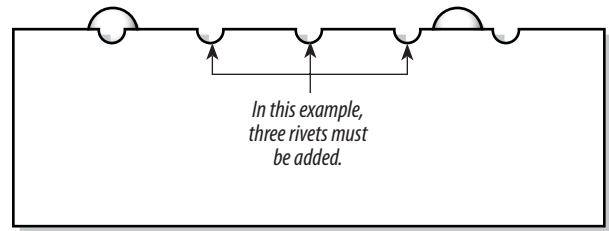
1 Inspect the rivet spacing along the joint of the rear roof sheet and the rear roof cap. Rivets must be added wherever center-to-center spacing is greater than 1 inch. A spacing template is provided to aid inspection and marking of locations for new rivets.



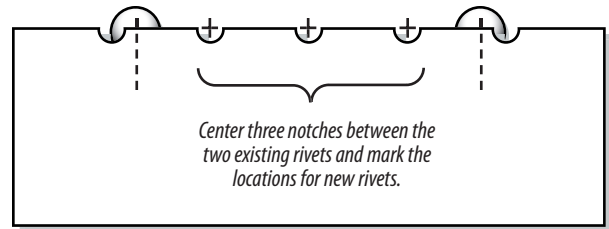
1.1 Align a notch of the template with a rivet on the bus. The notches of the template are spaced at the required 1-inch increments.



1.2 If the next notch does not reach the next rivet on the bus, at least one rivet must be added. Count the number of notches which do not have corresponding rivets on the bus. That is the number of rivets which must be added between the two existing rivets.



1.3 Visually center the number of required notches between the two existing rivets, and mark the locations.



1.4 Repeat for each rivet space across the entire roof joint.

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RECALL

2 At each mark, using a short $\frac{1}{64}$ " drill bit, drill a hole through the roof cap, roof sheet, and rear bow flange. Be sure to drill hole on a common centerline with existing rivets.



3 Place a small amount of Vinyl Gray 5522 Sealant (Blue Bird # 0898627) in each drilled hole.



4 The supplied $\frac{1}{4}$ " blind rivets (Blue Bird # 1854397) are pre-painted white or school bus chrome yellow. Install a rivet of the appropriate color into each hole.



5 Clean up any sealant that may have squeezed out or smeared during rivet installation.



6 With the correct color paint, touch up the center of each blind rivet where the stem was removed during installation.



RO4HV

RECALL CAMPAIGN