

**Recall R04JB**  
**Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement Retractor Recall**

The following Sure-Lok part numbers are affected by recall R04JB. Wheelchair securement systems sold through your parts department must also be inspected according to the instructions provided by Sure-Lok. Copy attached.

FE200773S	FE200775	FE200776	FE200776S	FE200778
FE200778LB	FE200778S	FE200779	FE200779LB	FE200779S
FE200780	FE200823	FE200823S	FE200824	FE200824S
FE200825	FE200825S	FE200826	FE200826S	FE200827
FE200827S	FE200828	FE200828S	FE200855	FE200855LB
FE200855S	FE200857	FE200857S	FE200868-2	FE200868-4
FE200905LB	FE200907	FE200907S	FE200925S	FE200947
FE200948LB	FE200950LB	FE200953	FE200954	FF610
FF610S	FF611	FF611S	FF612	FF612-1
FF612-4C	FF612S	FF612S-4C	FF612S-4C-2	FF612S-4C-3
FF612S-4C-7	FF615	FF615S	FF615S-4C	FF627
FF627-1	FF627-4C	FF627-4C-1	FF627-4C-3	FF627S
FF627S-4C	FF627S-4C-3	FF628	FF628-4C	FF628S
FF628S-4C	FF660S-4C	FF661S-4C		

For replacement retractors for wheelchair securement systems sold through your parts department contact Sure-Lok, Inc. Customer Service at 866-787-3565.

September 21, 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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exist in certain Blue Bird model buses. In the event of a crash, the wheelchair could possibly be unsecured resulting in injury to the wheelchair passenger. Affected models are identified below.

2004-2005 model year Blue Bird All American school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from February 12, 2004 through May 05, 2004.

2001-2003 model year Blue Bird TC/2000 school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from June 13, 2001 through December 02, 2002

2002-2004 model year Blue Bird Micro Bird school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from May 02, 2002 through July 27, 2004.

2004-2005 model year Blue Bird "Vision" conventional model school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from September 11, 2003 through March 17, 2004.

2001-2004 model year Blue Bird Conventional model school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from March 28, 2001 through August 13, 2004.

1999-2004 model year Blue Bird Commercial Series model non-school buses equipped with Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement system with retractors manufactured from February 17, 1999 through June 29, 2004.

The Sure-Lok component defect places the wheelchair securement retractor sprocket assembly out of alignment, causing the load pawl to not fully seat in the retractor sprocket teeth. In the event the sprockets are not aligned properly the wheelchair may not be secured during a crash. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

**All Sure-Lok retractable wheelchair tie-down assemblies must be inspected for this potential condition.** See attached Sure-Lok Safety Bulletin inspection procedures.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R04JB 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.

If the modifications/repair directed by this modification was performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification you are eligible for reimbursement. 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

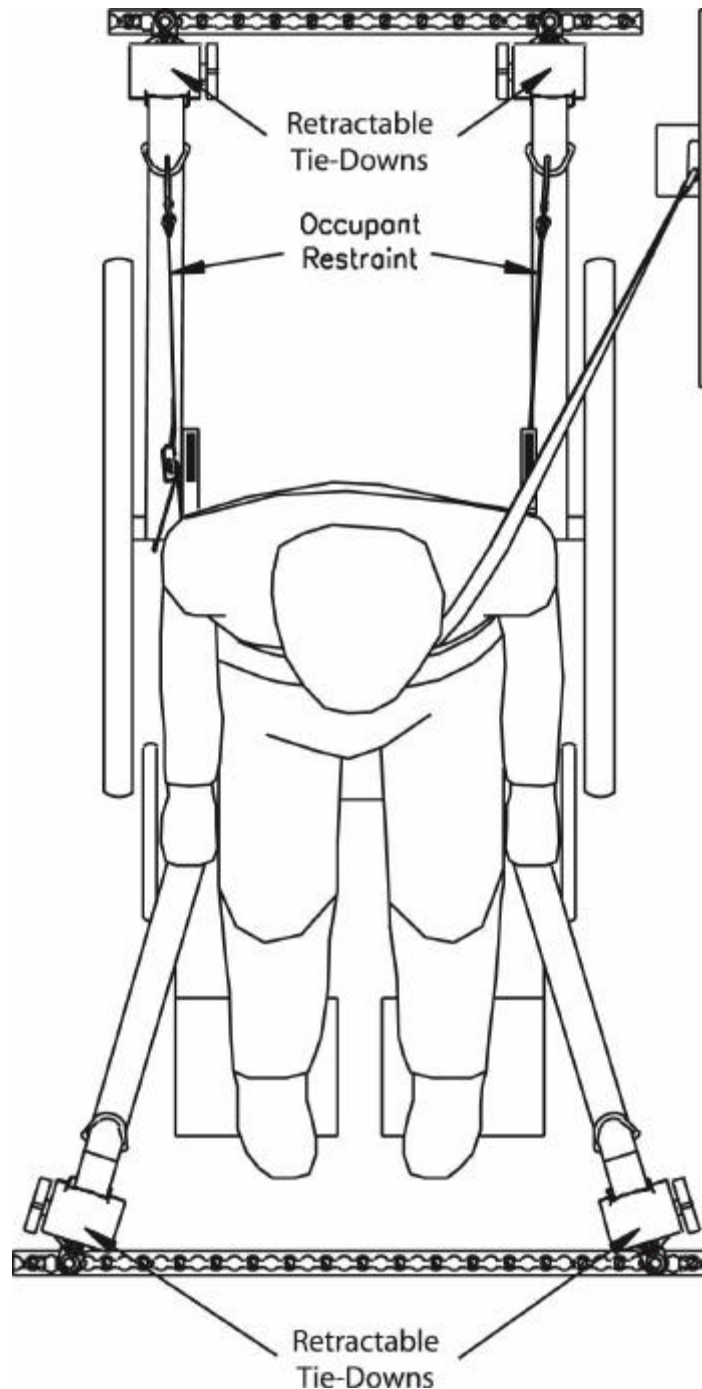
Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

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

**Recall R04JB**  
**Sure-Lok Wheelchair Securement Retractor Recall**

The following illustration shows a typical wheelchair securement installation. Only wheelchair securement systems with retractable belts are affected.



For questions regarding retractors for wheelchair securement systems contact Sure-Lok, Inc. Customer Service at 866-787-3565.

August 16, 2004

There is a possibility of a component related defect in Sure-Lok retractable wheelchair tie-down assemblies. It has been identified in only a few retractor assemblies; however, the potential for serious injury is sufficient to warrant this alert. This safety bulletin affects all retractable wheelchair tie-down assemblies shipped through July 2004.

The component defect places the sprocket teeth of the retractor assembly out of alignment, causing the load pawl to not fully seat in the sprocket teeth. **ALL retractable wheelchair tie-down assemblies must be inspected for this potential condition.** See instructions below. Any retractor, which meets the defined criteria, needs to be removed from service immediately and returned to Sure-Lok for replacement at no charge. Contact Customer Service at 866-787-3565 for further instructions.

### **Instructions for Inspecting Retractors**

#### **Retractor Operation:**

Each retractor assembly has a load pawl that engages into two sprockets (one on each side). As the retractor strap is wound into the case, the load pawl ratchets or clicks into the teeth of the sprockets. On units that have the proper alignment (phasing) of the sprockets, the load pawl clicks into and seats in both sprockets simultaneously. On these units, there are 24 teeth encountered on one full rotation of the retractor knob.

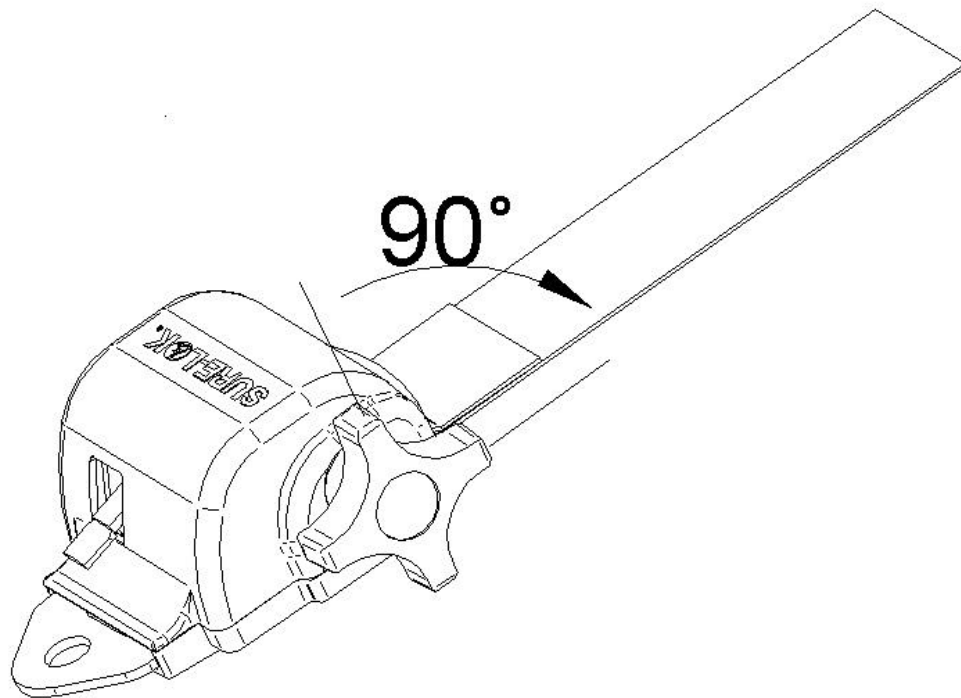
On units that exhibit the identified alignment or phase problem, the load pawl does not seat in both sprockets simultaneously, but encounters the sprocket teeth on one sprocket and then the other in succession. One full rotation of the retractor knob will click through 48 teeth (24 teeth for each sprocket) on these units.

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## **Inspecting Units That Have A Retractor Knob:**

Release the retractor strap and pull approximately 1 foot of webbing from the retractor. Position the retractor knob so that one of the lugs on the knob is at the 12:00 o'clock position. Slowly rotate the retractor knob one-quarter rotation (90 degrees) and count the clicks as the load pawl encounters the sprocket teeth. Units that are out of phase and require replacement will have 12 clicks. Contact Sure-Lok customer service at 866-787-3565.



*Rotate the knob  $\frac{1}{4}$  turn as shown in the picture and count the clicks*  
**6 clicks identifies a properly functioning retractor**  
**12 clicks identifies a defective unit that requires replacement**

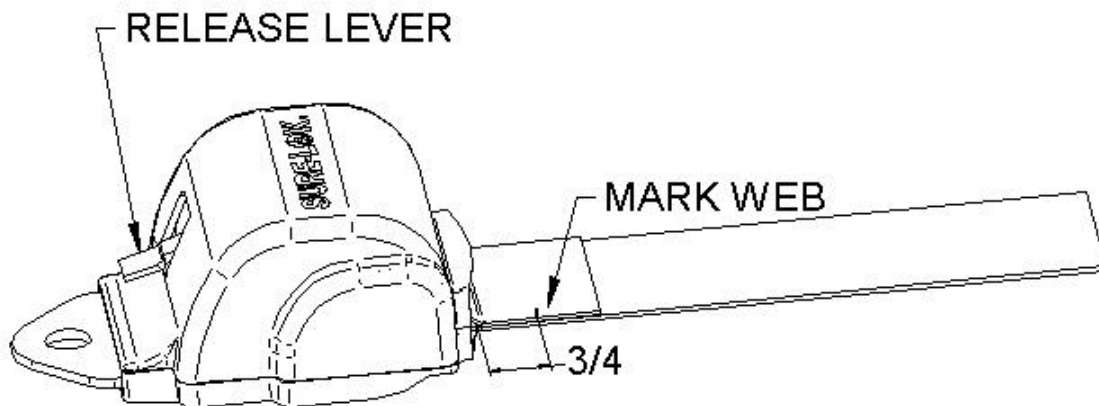
# SAFETY BULLETIN

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## **Inspecting Units That Do Not Have A Retractor Knob:**

Fully extend the webbing from the retractor, and measure  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from the entrance throat of the retractor. Draw a line on the webbing at this point  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from the entrance throat of the retractor. While holding the extended webbing taut, slowly depress the release lever to the point that it just releases the web.

Allow the webbing to be drawn into the retractor until the mark that you made is at the entrance of the retractor housing. Go slowly, one ratchet step at a time while counting the feel of ratchet clicks. It is necessary to let the release lever ride over the top of the sprocket teeth to feel the clicks. There should be the feel of six ratchet clicks encountered for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch length of webbing. 12 clicks over the  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch span of webbing indicates a defective retractor which needs to be removed from service immediately. Contact Sure-Lok customer service at 866-787-3565.



***6 clicks to retract  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of fully-extended web identifies a properly functioning retractor***

***12 clicks to retract  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of fully-extended web identifies a defective unit that requires replacement***