



R09PL

August 14, 2009

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 has decided that a noncompliance which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2010 model year All American school buses manufactured from May 13, 2009 through June 17, 2009.

On the subject buses, insufficient rivets may have been installed in the rear inner headliner panel. Buses with insufficient rivets fail to conform to the joint strength requirements of FMVSS 221 "School Bus Body Joint Strength". Bus passengers may sustain injuries in the event of a vehicle crash. Buses with this noncompliance must be corrected according to the enclosed instructions for Recall R09PL.

A qualified technician should perform Recall R09PL or you may contact your Blue Bird dealer for assistance.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by this recall 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 **pink** reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

Labor time to inspect the rear headliner for correct rivet spacing is 0.3 hrs per bus.

Labor time to installed rivets, if needed, is 2 minutes per rivet.

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.

If the modifications directed by this notification were 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.

BLUE BIRD CORPORATION
P.O. Box 937 • Fort Valley, Georgia 31030
Phone: (478) 825-2021

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
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

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

1-888-327-4236
TTY 1-800-424-9153

Or, go to: [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV)

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

Thank you,



**Bill Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
BLUE BIRD CORPORATION**



Headlining Rivets

RECALL

MODELS AFFECTED: 2010 D3FE All American School Buses manufactured at Fort Valley, Georgia from January 19, 2009 through May 13, 2009.

ISSUE

On some units, the rivet spacing may be incorrect in some segments of the rear headlining and rear upper inner panel joint, resulting in noncompliance with FMVSS 221, School Bus Body Joint Strength.

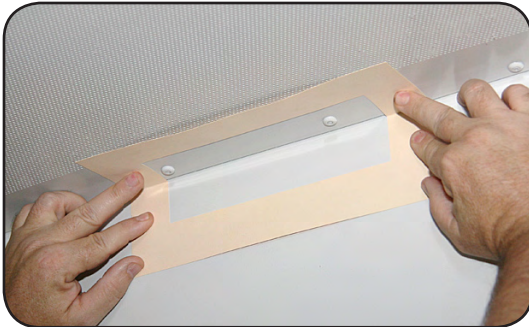
CORRECTIVE ACTION

Inspect the rivet spacing at the joint and install additional rivets as required by specification.

WARNING Always follow all Federal, State, Local, and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment when performing this procedure.

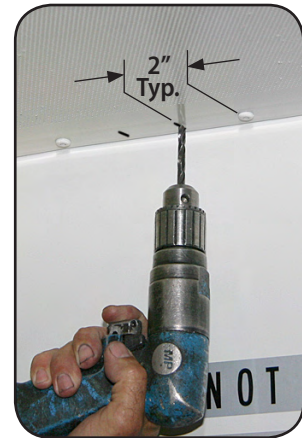
PROCEDURE

- 1** Park vehicle on level surface, apply parking brake, remove ignition key and chock wheels.
- 2** Inspect rivet spacing at rear headlining and rear upper inner panel joint. Joint must have a minimum of four rivets in an eight inch segment.
 - 2.1 Place the template over the joint and parallel to the edge of the headlining panel, allowing roof rivets to be exposed through the opening in the template as shown.



- 2.2 Move the template from one side of the headlining panel to the opposite side.
- 2.3 If a segment in the rear headlining panel joint contains less than four rivets, additional rivets are required. Mark each area that requires additional rivets. Rivets should be spaced on approx. 2" centers.
- 2.4 If additional rivets are required; add additional rivets between the largest spaces until a minimum of four (4) rivets have been added in the 8 inch segment.

- 3** Using a short 7/32" drill bit, drill a hole through the headlining panel and the rear upper inner panel. Be sure to drill hole on a common center-line with existing rivets.



- 4** Install pre-painted rivet/s in each hole.



- 5** With the correct color paint, touch up the center of each rivet where the stem was removed during installation.

PARTS LIST

PART NUMBER	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
01549211	As Required	Rivet, Cherry, SSPVH-204-4

R09PL

S E R V I C E R E C A L L