

R99DE

August 26, 1999

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 certain Blue Bird All American forward engine buses equipped with Allison World transmissions do not conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 102 Section 3.1.3 pertaining to starter interlock requirements. On subject vehicles, the engine starter is operative with transmission selector in forward or reverse positions.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to this non-compliance is that if any forward or reverse gear is selected after the ignition is turned on but before the starter is operative, the vehicle will start and move once the starter is engaged. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this non-compliance.

You should have this non-compliance corrected immediately. Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R99DE are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed reply sheets. Follow the instructions on the enclosed **yellow** parts request sheet and return it to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid reply envelope.

Modification parts will be available beginning August 26, 1999. Modification parts will be shipped "No Charge" to you via UPS.

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.

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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 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 R99DE is 30 minutes (0.5 hour) per bus

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:

1-800-424-9393

Washington D.C. residents may call 202-366-0123.

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (912) 822-2242.

Thank you,

Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator

BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY

RECALL R99DE
ALL AMERICAN NEUTRAL SAFETY SWITCH NONCOMPLIANCE
MODIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Park bus on level surface and set parking brake.
2. Remove battery ground cable from battery.
3. Remove cover from power distribution unit (PDU) located under driver's area.

NOTE: Reference Figure 1 on page 3 for component locations.
4. Locate open position for module 4 (relay/fuse block) supplied.
5. Insert supplied relay/fuse block with wires extending out of left hand side of block, be sure all four mounting tabs are locked into place.
6. Remove two-way connector from starter relay located in upper right hand corner of PDU. (Location 4A)
7. Remove white /green wire, #18114, from connector. Remove end terminal and fold wire back against itself and tape.
8. Route green/white wire from new relay/fuse block to starter relay connector and install in location where wire #18114 was removed.
9. Install connector back onto the starter relay. (Location 4A)
10. Remove two-way connector from ignition relay located in upper left hand corner of PDU. (Location 5A)
11. Remove white wire, #1231, from connector and remove terminal.
12. Route white wire from new relay/fuse block to ignition relay.
13. Strip both white wires 3/16" and crimp on single 250 series terminal. (Supplied)
14. Install terminal with two white wires attached back into two-way connector in location where wire #1231 was removed.
15. Install connector back onto the ignition relay. (Location 5A)
16. Remove terminal sealing pins on harness connector plug and PDU receptacle in location "L". (See J2)

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17. Insert tan/white wire from relay/fuse block into terminal “L” of female connector inside the PDU.
18. Insert tan/white wire #158 into terminal “L” of male connector on frame harness. (Location J2)
19. Follow harness forward approximately 20” to 12 connector plug. Remove secondary lock from connector and plug from terminal “C”. Insert 150 series pin into terminal location “C” of connector. (Matching connector will have circuit #18123, tan wire in matching location)
20. Install loom over wire and secure with nylon wire ties to existing harness.
21. Check wiring connections.
22. Replace PDU cover.
23. Reconnect battery ground cables.
24. Check ignition operation according to the chart below.

IGNITION	TRANSMISSION	ENGINE
OFF	NEUTRAL	OFF
ON	NEUTRAL	START AND RUN
ON	FORWARD OR REVERSE	WILL NOT START OR RUN

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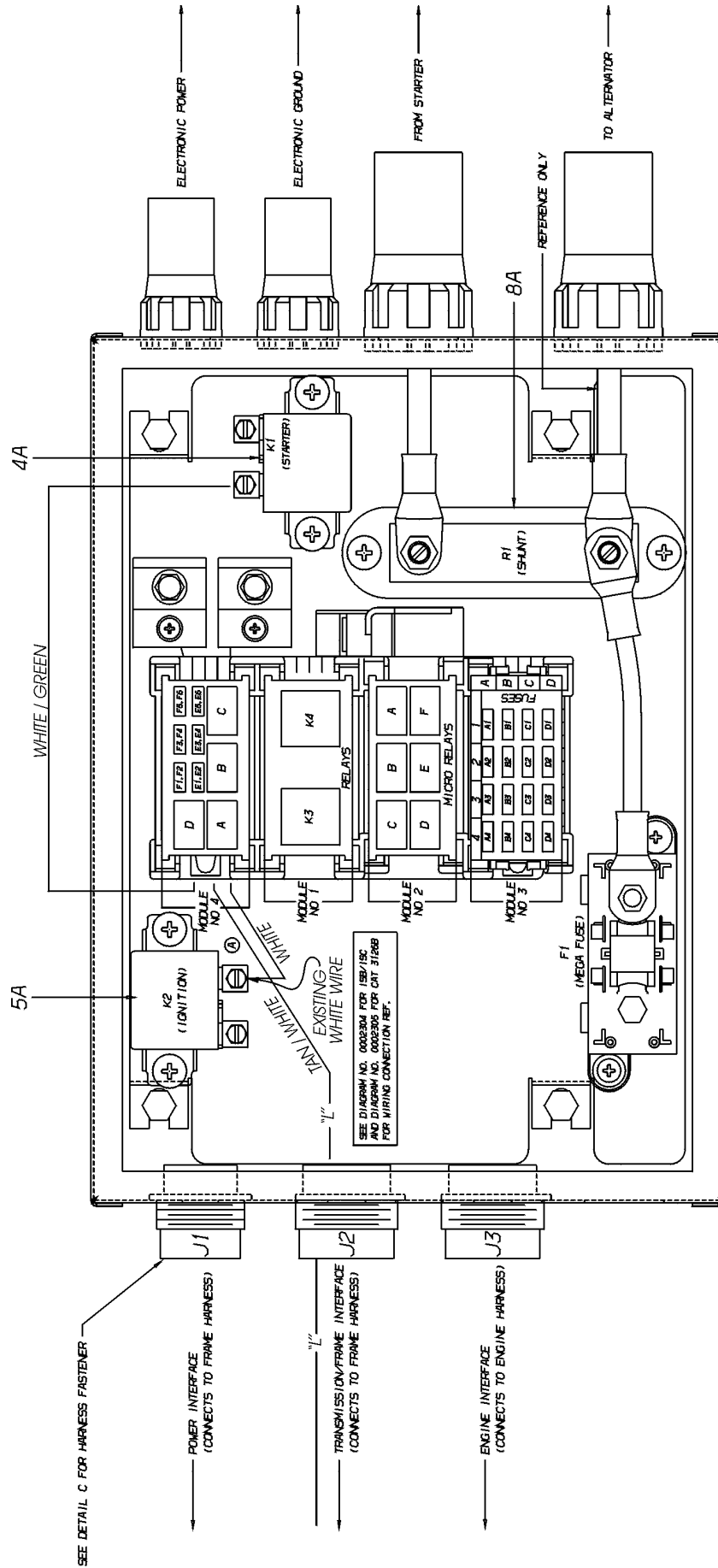


FIGURE 1