

R05JR

May 26, 2005

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 2006 model year Blue Bird All American buses manufactured at the Fort Valley, GA. plant from December 06, 2004 through April 08, 2005 fail to conform to "Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 221 School Bus Body Joint Strength".

The nonconformance relates to the interior side panels. The adhesive used in securing the interior side panels provided unsatisfactory performance which resulted in a failure to meet FMVSS 221 School Bus Body Joint Strength requirements. In the event of a crash this could allow the panels to separate exposing passengers inside the bus to serious injury.

Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this noncompliance. You should contact your Blue Bird distributor to schedule an appointment to have this work performed. Labor time required to perform recall R05JR is 22.5 hours per bus.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R05JR 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.

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
Corporate Recall Administrator
BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY

Recall R05JR
Interior Side Panel Noncompliance
Modification Instructions

- Remove all seats, placing them outside the bus in the order they are removed so they can be put back in the original position.
- Remove rivets from all bows where the drill templates are to be mounted.
- Remove window washers.
- Remove push out windows to allow drilling for rivets behind window flange.
- Confirm that all rivets used to secure inside side panels to window sill and inside side panels to floor gusset ledge are rivet 1549211 (headlining rivet) at 3-1/2" spacing. Drill out any rivets which are not #1549211 using a 7/32" drill bit.
- Attach drill templates with #10 screws in bows for window sill and floor gusset ledge. (Use template #1740513 for window sill and template #1740521 for floor gusset ledge.)
- Mark hole locations with a 7/32" drill bit.
- Remove drill templates.
- Drill holes with a 7/32" drill bit. (Note: Use 2" drill stops when drilling through side panels.)
- Install rivet 1549211 in the 7/32" holes along the window sill and the floor gusset ledge.
- Re-install push out windows.
- Reattach window washers with #10 screws.
- Re-install seats using new bolts and nuts, and torque to 18-20 ft-lbs. (Gusset ledge bolts #1032283 and nut #0829390. Seat leg bolts #1542448 short/#1542463 long, and nut #0829390.)
- Inspect work and verify that all buzzers and switches work properly. Any pins protruding from rivets must be cut off. **Do not drive protruding pins through rivet.**