

R99DJ

December 17, 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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exist in certain 1999 and 2000 year model Blue Bird LTC 40 coaches. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

The defect involves the manner in which the overhead parcel racks are attached to the ceiling of the bus on subject buses. The original fasteners may become dislodged allowing parcel racks to fall without warning.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to this defect is the potential for injury to passengers in the event the fasteners become dislodged and the racks should fall while passenger seats are occupied.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R99DJ 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.

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. Parts will be shipped "No Charge" via UPS.

Upon completion of the recall, the owner should complete and return the pink reply sheet in the postage prepaid envelope provided. The owner may request reimbursement of labor costs by completing the appropriate section of the pink reply sheet. If repair is performed by other than the owner or a Blue Bird distributor, attach a copy of the paid work order/invoice to the reply sheet. Time required to perform recall R99DJ is 40 hours per bus.

R99DJ

Page 2

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

REPLACEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cover seats with protective sheeting.
2. To remove Radio Engineering Industries video system, go to step 3. To remove Custom Radio video system, go to step 10.

Note: Label wiring as you disconnect from video system to aid in the re-installation process.

3. Remove covers from Radio Engineering Industries monitors. Covers are attached with Velcro fasteners around upper edge under mounting bracket.
4. Remove monitor. Monitor is attached with two (2) small screws (on inboard side) and with a key at rear.
5. Remove four (4) large Phillip $\frac{1}{4}$ -20 screws from first mounting plate. Hold mounting plate to prevent cables from being pulled loose. **Do not drop mounting plate.**
6. Remove Phillips screws from second mounting plate. Pull down mounting plate and pull power and video cables slowly from parcel rack until you can disconnect cables from main harness. Push main wire harness back into rack.
7. Disconnect power and video cables located in front of left hand (driver's side) parcel rack that run to video player and video distribution box.
8. Remove video player and distribution box.
9. Proceed to step 16 if coach is equipped with CD player. If not equipped with CD player, proceed to step 18.
10. Remove covers from Custom Radio monitors. Covers are attached with eight (8) plugs, two (2) each on left, right, rear, and bottom.
11. Remove access panel at rear of monitor and disconnect power and video cables.
12. Remove monitor attached with two (2) small screws and key at rear.
13. Remove four (4) $\frac{5}{16}$ " nuts from first mounting plate. Hold mounting plate to prevent cables from being pulled loose. **Do not drop mounting plate.**
14. Remove second mounting plate, which is also attached with Phillip screws. Hold mounting plate to prevent cables from pulling loose. **Do not drop mounting plate.** Push main wire harness back into rack.
15. Disconnect power and video cables located in the front left hand (driver's side) parcel rack that run to video player assembly.
16. If coach is equipped with CD player installed in left hand front parcel rack, disconnect power and audio cables and remove CD player from rack.
17. Remove screws (item 12) from piston covers (item 4).
18. Remove screws and fish eyes (items 1 and 2) from cover over compartment light. (item 3).
19. Disconnect light connectors between compartment light covers (item 3) and remove covers.
20. Remove map light for driver and tour guide, if installed.

21. Remove forward end panels from parcel racks. Be careful not to damage wiring for lights and speakers.
22. Disconnect all wiring at front of parcel racks (speakers and lights).
23. Secure (tie loosely) all wiring out of way to aid in removal of parcel racks.

Note: Review Figures 1 and 2 on page 3 of instructions for location of items given in instructions.

24. Remove door-opening support (item 11) at the joint of front and rear parcel rack. Support is secured with 10mm nuts (item 10) and screws (item 12) behind doors.
25. Cut two (2) 2 x 4 supports 67 ¾" long, cover ends with fabric to protect parcel rack and flooring.
26. Install supports under both ends of parcel rack section that is to be removed first.
27. Remove screws (item 16) from extrusions (item 14, 15) at rear flap of parcel rack.
28. Remove screws (item 7) from extrusion (item 6) in ceiling at compartment light access.

CAUTION: PARCEL RACK SECTIONS WEIGH APPROXIMATELY 225 LB EACH. A MINIMUM OF 4 PEOPLE IS RECOMMENDED TO HANDLE PARCEL RACK SAFELY.

29. Slide front parcel rack forward 4" to disconnect speaker wires.
30. Slide parcel rack to inside of coach to disconnect parcel rack from extrusion (item 9) mounted permanently to ceiling.
31. Place parcel rack on top of seats.
32. Remove rear parcel rack repeating steps 27 through 32.
33. Remove screws (item 7) from extrusion (item 9) and drill hole out to ¼" and install rivets (item 19).

Note: Where joints in the extrusion that attach parcel racks to roof are between bows, install reinforcement angle over joint. See Figure 2.

34. While parcel racks are down, run a thick bead of sika-flex between extrusion joint (item 18) and roof panels to prevent squeaks between extrusion and roof.
35. Reverse order to reinstall parcel rack.
36. Replace screw (item 16) with rivet (item 17) after drilling hole out to 3/16".

Note: When installing PK screws (item 8) ensure that screws are being fastened into the bow. Bows are spaced 35.0" apart.

37. When replacing sheet metal screws (item 7) with PK screws (item 8) apply Lock-tite on screws before installing in profile.

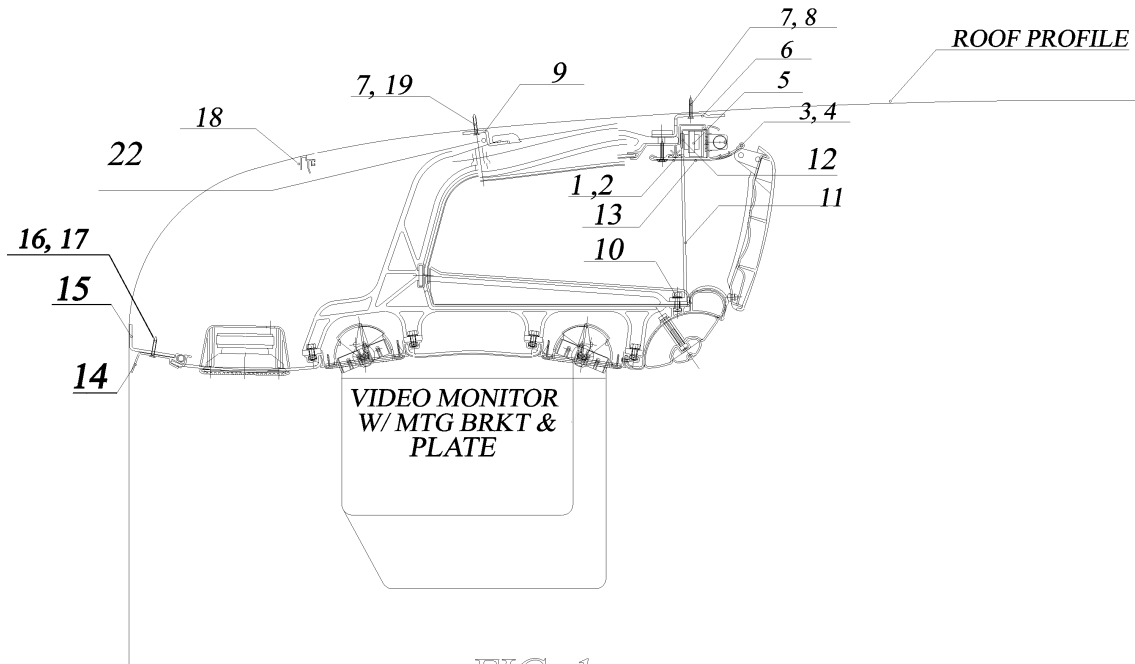


FIG. 1

Key No.	Description
1	Screw
2	Fisheye (washer)
3	Compartment light cover
4	Piston cover
5	Light connector
6	Extrusion, mounting, inner
7	Screw (to be removed)
8	PK screw, p/n 4569661 (replacement for item 7)
9	Extrusion, rear parcel rack
10	Nut, (requires 10mm wrench)
11	Support, door opening
12	Rivet, 1/4" p/n 1854397
13	Screw in piston cover
14	Extrusion, filler
15	Extrusion, angle, wall mount
16	Screw (to be removed)
17	Rivet, 3/16", p/n 3788049 (replacement for item 16)
18	Extrusion, roof for A/C duct
19	Rivet, 1/4", p/n 1854397 (replacement for item 7 at extrusion Item 9)
22	Reinforcement (to be added)

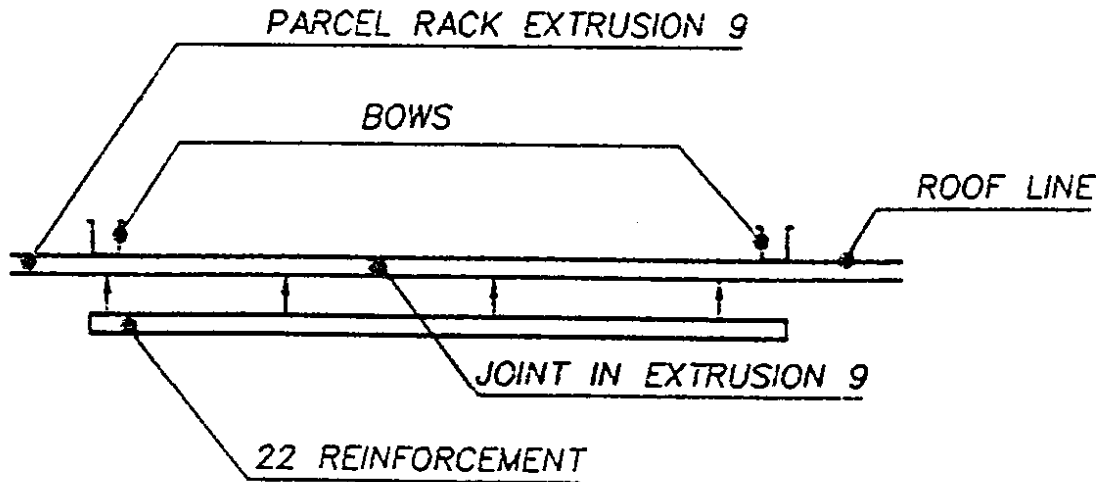


Figure 2

Parts Required:

Quantity	Part Number	Description
30	4569661	Screw, PK
50	3788049	Rivet, 3/16 alum.
30	1854397	Rivet, blind, 1/4
4	0020651	Reinforcement, extrusion, 138 deg.
4	0020657	Reinforcement, extrusion, 90 deg.
1 tube	2237634	Adhesive, Lock-tite 242
1 tube	2237634	Sika-Flex

Estimated time required to replace fasteners is 40 hours.