



BLUE BIRD

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14V-313
(3 pages)

PART 573.6 Defect and Noncompliance Reporting

Defect Report: School Bus

Report Date: June 11, 2014

1. Vehicles affected are manufactured by:

Blue Bird Corporation
P. O. Box 937
Fort Valley, GA 31030

2. The following vehicles are being recalled:

Certain 2008 through 2013 Model Year Blue Bird All American Rear engine school buses manufactured from April 03, 2007 through December 15, 2012.

3. The total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect are:

1,935

4. The approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is:

Unknown

5. The defect consists of:

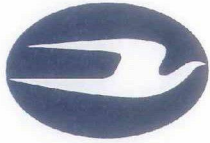
The heater hose in the passenger compartment could rupture allowing hot coolant to enter the passenger compartment which may result in personal injury.

6. The following data is the basis for the determination of the defect.

On October 10, 2013 Blue Bird received a report of hot coolant on the floor of a school bus in St Johns County, Florida. Several passengers were reported to have received injuries from the hot coolant on the floor as they exited the bus. Blue Bird representatives inspected the bus and found the heater hose in the passenger compartment had failed allowing hot coolant to flow onto the floor. The heater hoses were changed by St Johns County Public Schools.

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P.O. Box 937 – 402 Blue Bird Blvd – Fort Valley, Georgia – (478) 825-2021



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On October 14, 2013 Blue Bird received a report from Camp Pendleton California of a coolant leak inside the bus at the rear wheel housing. A ruptured heater hose was reported as the source of the coolant.

On January 21, 2014 Blue Bird received a report of a heater hose failure in the passenger compartment on a school bus in Artesia School District in New Mexico. The report indicated three passengers were taken to the hospital for observation and released. The heater hoses were returned to Blue Bird for evaluation.

On January 23, 2014 Blue Bird received the failed heater hoses from Artesia New Mexico. The heater hoses were evaluated and determined they met the specified 300 psi requirement and were not the cause of the failure. Blue Bird continued to monitor this issue.

On February 19, 2014 Blue Bird received a report of coolant found on the floor in a school bus in Orange County, California. No injuries were reported.

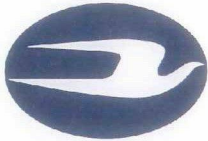
On May 09, 2014 Blue Bird received a report of ruptured heater hoses in two buses from Natrona County School District in Casper Wyoming. Three passengers were reported as potentially receiving injuries from the hot coolant.

In early June 2014 Blue Bird completed its evaluation of the heater hose failures in the passenger compartment. It was determined that during high engine RPM the thermostat installed in the Cummins ISC07, ISC10 and ISL-G engines provided to Blue Bird may cause a pulsation in the coolant flow. This pulsation over time could weaken the passenger compartment heater hose inner lining resulting in the potential for the hose to fail.

On June 10, 2014 Blue Bird decided to conduct a recall correct this defect.

7. The defect will be corrected in the following manner:

The Cummins engine thermostat will be changed to a new barrel type thermostat and the passenger compartment heater supply hose will be changed. In addition, a cover will be added at the underseat heater hose connection under the passenger seats and a rubber seal will be added to the heater hose transition cover at the rear of the wheelhousing.



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8. Notification will be as follows:

Dealer notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about July 11, 2014.
Owner notification is scheduled to be mailed on or about July 11, 2014.
Parts are anticipated to be available at time of notification.

9. Blue Bird's identification number assigned to this recall is:

R14XF

10. Dealer and Owner Notification:

A draft copy of the notification documents will be submitted to NHTSA for review prior to mailing.

Questions regarding this recall should be directed to:

William P. Coleman
Corporate Recall Administrator
Blue Bird Corporation
P.O. Box 937
Fort Valley GA 31030
(478) 822-2242

Signed: _____

William P. Coleman

William P. Coleman, Corporate Recall Administrator