

R00DN

December 18, 2000

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 model school buses manufactured at Blue Bird's Mount Pleasant, Iowa plant from November 01, 1993 through December 06, 1999 fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 221 pertaining to "Joint Strength" requirements. Subject buses fail to meet the 60 per cent joint strength requirements on certain 8 inch segments of the exterior roof joints. **The body serial numbers of the subject buses begin with the letter prefix "M".**

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to this non-compliance is potential for certain 8" segments of roof sheets to separate in the event of a severe impact. 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 R00DN are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed reply sheets.

Before beginning inspection and repairs you must obtain additional rivets to have on hand if needed. To obtain rivets, verify that address shown in the top left corner of the yellow reply sheet is a valid shipping address for you. If not, please provide correct shipping address below the body numbers on the yellow sheet. You will need to provide your telephone number at the bottom of the yellow sheet then sign and return the yellow reply sheet to Blue Bird. A pink postage prepaid envelope is enclosed. A sufficient quantity of rivets will be shipped to you "No Charge" via regular UPS.

If you no longer own the subject bus (es), please complete the appropriate section at the right top of the yellow reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink, postage prepaid, reply 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.

Upon completion of the recall, the owner should complete and return the pink reply sheet in the pink postage prepaid reply 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. Blue Bird will provide 48 minutes (0.8 hrs.) per bus inspection time and 2 minutes per rivet for each additional rivet installed.

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:

1-888-327-4236

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

Thank you,

Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator

RECALL R00DN

ROOF JOINT RIVET INSPECTION AND REPAIR PROCEDURES

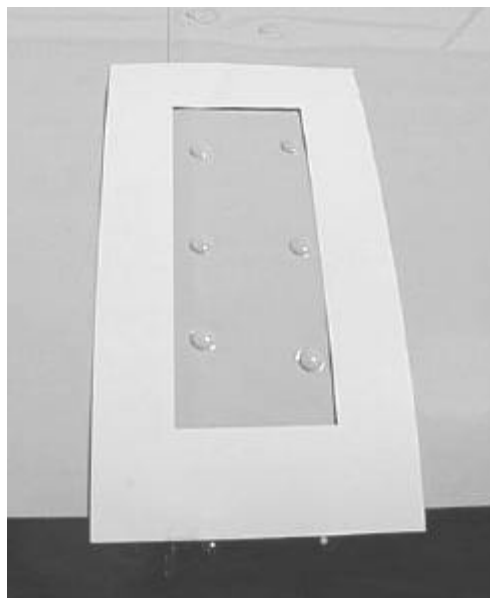
1. You will need a three-jaw chuck rivet gun capable of pulling 3/16" structural steel rivets to install the additional rivets. The following brands, Cherry #703, Huck # 212/2015, or POP #540 or other equivalent brand may be used.

Note: If you do not have an equivalent rivet gun we recommend that you make an appointment with your authorized Blue Bird distributor to have the work performed at a time convenient to both you and the distributor.

You will also need a small container of touchup paint to match the roof of your bus. This should be prepared prior to beginning work.

Caution: Be sure to observe all safety precautions when climbing and working on ladders or other equipment used to work on roof of bus.

2. Roof panel joints are assembled with two rows of rivets. Each joint must have a minimum of **six** rivets in each eight inch segment. In any area requiring additional rivets, add the rivets to the row with the fewest number of rivets in any given eight inch segment.
3. Place template over joint of adjoining roof panels. Longest section of the template should be positioned parallel to the roof panel joint, with the roof rivets exposed through the opening in the template as shown below.



4. Move template along the roof panel joint across the bus body. As the template is moved, count the rivets that appear in the cutout section of the template. In any given position, a minimum of **six** rivets should be visible within the cutout.
 5. If a segment in the roof panel joint contains less than six rivets, additional rivets will need to be added to the joint at this section. **Mark each area that requires additional rivets.**
 6. For each additional rivet needed, drill a 13/64" diameter hole through roof panels. Be sure to drill hole in line with existing rivets. **Do not drill through the inner headlining panel.**
 7. Install rivet (#1989946) in each drilled hole.
 8. Use touch-up paint to match roof color on rivet heads.
 9. Continue the rivet quantity check and repair across the entire length of the body sheet and on every roof sheet joint on the bus body. Touch up rivet heads with appropriate paint to match roof color.
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