

R00EA

September 25, 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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 1999-2001 model year Blue Bird All American and TC/2000 school and transit buses and 1999-2001 Q Bus and Commercial Series transit buses equipped with the Felsted electronic accelerator pedals for electronic engines. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

Felsted Products, LLC has notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Blue Bird Body Company that a defect exists in the springs that return the accelerator pedal to the idle position. The defect involves the potential for the Felsted electronic accelerator pedal return springs to break. The original Felsted electronic accelerator pedal must be replaced with a new pedal assembly with updated return springs.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to this defect is failure of the accelerator to return to idle position in the event **both** accelerator pedal return springs should break.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R00EA 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 postage prepaid envelope.

Felsted Products, LLC anticipates replacement pedals will be available in limited quantities beginning September 25, 2000. Until the replacement accelerator pedals are replaced, the accelerator pedal return springs must be inspected on a weekly basis for signs of wear or for broken springs. (See attached Felsted Accelerator Return Spring Inspection Procedures.) If either of the two accelerator return springs is found to be broken, the bus must be removed from service until the pedal assembly has been replaced. For urgent pedal replacements contact me at (478) 822-2242.

You may replace the accelerator pedal assembly yourself or have the work done by a qualified repair facility convenient to you. You may contact your Blue Bird distributor for assistance.

To receive replacement accelerator pedals to correct this defect, verify that the address shown at the top of the yellow parts request sheet is a valid UPS shipping address and return to Blue Bird in the pink self-addressed postage paid envelope. Once replacement accelerator pedals are available they will be shipped "No Charge" via UPS or common carrier direct from Felsted Products, LLC facilities. The original accelerator pedal must be returned to Felsted Products, LLC. Instructions for returning the original pedal will be provided with the replacement pedal.

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 remove the defective Felsted accelerator pedal and replace it with a new accelerator pedal assembly with current design springs is 0.5 hours 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:

1-888-327-4236

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

Thank you,

Bill Coleman
Recall Administrator
BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY

**RECALL R00EA
FELSTED ACCELERATOR PEDAL RETURN SPRINGS
INSPECTION PROCEDURES**

Procedure:

1. Grasp top portion of pedal with hand and pull pedal toward rear of bus until the pedal stops. (See Figure 1)



Figure 1

2. If it is impossible to view underside of pedal, use a small mirror to see underside of pedal. (See Figure 2)



Figure 2

3. If any parts are out of position or a spring is broken, **DO NOT** return the bus to service until the pedal has been replaced. Contact Bill Coleman at 478-822-2242 for replacement pedal.

**RECALL R00EA
FELSTED ACCELERATOR PEDAL
REPLACEMENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Park bus on a level surface.
2. Set parking brake.
3. Shift transmission to neutral, turn engine off, and remove ignition key.
4. Chock wheels.
5. Pull accelerator pedal toward rear of bus to access the three 5/16-18 x 1" long bolts on top of the accelerator base. Locate the 5/16-18 serrated nuts on the bottom side of the driver's floor panel. Remove nuts and bolts.

TIP: One person is inside the bus and the other is underneath driver's platform.

6. Remove any clamps or ties securing accelerator pedal harness and disconnect the accelerator harness being careful not to damage any electrical connections.
7. Install new pedal by reversing the above steps. Torque 5/16-18 serrated nuts to 12-14 ft-lbs.

NOTE: Route wires in the same location as the removed harness. Check to be sure that there is no interference with the movement of the accelerator and brake pedal.

8. Start engine to verify that accelerator pedal is operating the engine RPM from idle to Full throttle, and that the pedal returns rapidly and the engine slows down once the actuating force is removed from the accelerator pedal.
9. Stop engine and remove wheel chocks.