

R00EF

September 06, 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 year model Blue Bird All American front engine school and transit buses. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

The defect involves the threaded fasteners associated with the upper steering slip shaft, the interconnecting miter box and the lower slip shaft. Irregularities in torque values of these fasteners have been found and can result in a loss of steering control. These irregularities indicate that the replacement of and proper torquing of the subject bolts is the appropriate correction. The fastener replacement instructions with torque details are attached.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to this defect is in the event of disengagement of the slip shaft assembly, loss of steering could occur without warning.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R00EF are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed pink 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.

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.

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Replacement bolts are included with this notification letter. If bolts are not included your Blue Bird distributor has requested that the bolts be sent to their facility. If you should need additional bolts, contact me at 478- 822-2242. We will ship replacement bolts to you "No Charge" via UPS next day air.

Upon completion of the recall the owner should complete and return the pink reply sheet in the postage prepaid envelope provided to indicate replacement bolts have been installed. The owner may request reimbursement of labor costs by completing the appropriate section of the pink reply sheet. If repair is performed by someone other than the owner or a Blue Bird distributor, attach a copy of the paid work order/invoice to the pink reply sheet. Time required to replace the steering slip shaft assembly bolts including the mitre box mounting bracket bolts is 1 hour.

Important: Your prompt return of the pink reimbursement sheet, complete with the correct Body Serial Numbers, permits Blue Bird to update our 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

RECALL R00EF INSTRUCTIONS
STEERING SHAFT ASSEMBLY AND MITRE BOX
BOLT REPLACEMENT

1. Park unit on level surface, turn engine off and remove keys.
2. Chock wheels.
3. Locate four (4) bolts in steering shaft arrangement:
 - Item #1 on rear of 90 degree miter box end of slip shaft assembly.
 - Item #2 on steering gear end of slip shaft assembly.
 - Item #5 on top of 90 degree miter box end of upper slip shaft assembly.
 - Item #6 on bottom of steering column assembly end of upper slip shaft assembly.
4. Remove bolts, Item #1,2,5, and 6 from clamping location and discard bolts, nuts and washers.
NOTE: Replacement of bolt, Item #6 will require the removal of closeout panel, Item #7.
5. Replace all bolts, nuts, and washers with bolt #1916980, washer #1134097, and nut #0997080.
6. **TORQUE BOLTS 40 FT. LBS.**
TORQUE SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY HOLDING BOLT HEAD AND TORQUE APPLIED TO NUT.
NOTE: IN THIS TYPE APPLICATION A BENT BOLT IS NOT UNCOMMON.
7. Locate four miter box attaching bolts (Item #10) and three bracket attaching bolts (Item #12).
8. Support miter box and shafts, i.e. wire ties.
9. Remove bolts, Item #10 and 12, and discard bolts, nuts and washers.
10. Replace bolts, Item #10, using bolts #1928290, washers (8) #1107085, and nuts #0826297.
11. Replace bolts, Item #12, using bolts #0803213, washers (6) #1107085, and nuts #0826297
12. **TORQUE BOLTS 30 FT. LBS.**
TORQUE SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY HOLDING BOLT HEAD AND TORQUE APPLIED TO NUT.
13. Turn steering wheel, check for steering system operation.
14. Remove wheel chocks.

ITEM	PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	QTY.
1,2,5,6	1916980	CAPSCREW,HEX HD, 7/16-14 X 1 3/4 .GRADE 8	4
	1134097	WASHER, FLAT 15/32 X 1-1/8X 5/64	4
	0997080	NUT,HEX HD, 7/16-14 LOCKING GRADE 8 CADMIUM WAX	4
10	1928290	CAPSCREW,HEX HD,3/8-16 X 4, GRADE 8	4
	1107085	WASHER,FLAT, 13/32 X 13/16 X 3/32	8
	0826297	NUT,HEX HD 3/8-16 LOCK	4
12	0803213	CAPSCREW,HEX HD, 3/8-16 X 1 1/4, GRADE 8	3
	1107085	WASHER,FLAT, 13/32 X 13/16 X 3/32	6
	0826297	NUT,HEX HD 3/8-16 LOCK	3