

R02GP

December 12, 2002

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 decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in the electronic accelerator pedal assembly in buses equipped with Caterpillar 3126E engines. This decision was based on notification by Felsted, Inc. manufacturer of the electronic accelerator pedal assembly.

The Felsted accelerator pedal assembly with potential defective throttle position sensor was installed on certain 2002 model year Blue Bird All American school and transit buses manufactured from June 05, 2002 through October 31, 2002 equipped with Caterpillar 3126E engines. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

The defect involves the throttle position sensor. The internal return spring cuts a trace into the printed circuit board causing the sensor to fail (without warning) and causing loss of accelerator control and returning the engine to idle.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety is the possibility that if the defect occurs the engine would return to low idle and the driver could not accelerate thereby placing the bus in a position that could result in a vehicle crash without prior warning.

You must have the Felsted electronic accelerator pedal inspected for defective throttle position sensors. Defective throttle position sensors will have date codes from FE111 through FJ161. The throttle position sensor date codes on each of your buses must be recorded on the attached sheet and returned to Blue Bird in the pink postage paid reply envelope. Date code is located on white decal on forward side of throttle position sensor.



Replacement throttle position sensors will be shipped to you "No Charge" for buses found with date codes within the defective range. Instructions for replacing defective throttle position sensors are attached.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R02GP are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed reply sheets.

If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the right top 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. Reimbursement for labor may be obtained by completing the pink request for reimbursement sheet provided and returning it to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

Time required to inspect throttle position sensor for defective date code is 0.1 hour (6 minutes). Time required to remove and replace the defective throttle position sensor is 0.5 hour (30 minutes) 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 R02GP
Throttle Position Sensor Date Code
Inspection Sheet**

Body Number

Date Code

Date Inspected

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Shipping Address:

(Customer Name)

(Street)

(City, State, ZIP)

(Attention- Please Print)

Return completed inspection sheet to Blue Bird Body Co. in the pink envelope provided or to:
Blue Bird Body Company, P.O. Box 937, Fort Valley, GA 31030 Attn: Recall Administrator

Recall R02GP

Electronic Foot Pedal Caterpillar Throttle Sensor Replacement Instructions

Tools needed:

- #2 “stubby” Phillips screwdriver

1. Please read and understand installation procedure before beginning.
2. Park bus on level surface, apply parking brake, shift transmission to neutral, turn engine off, and remove ignition key.
3. Locate Electronic Foot Pedal and remove the two sensor screws, washers and sensor from the pedal. (Fig. 1)
4. Remove harness P-clips. (Save for later use) (Fig. 2)
5. Disconnect harness electrical connector. (Fig. 3)



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

6. Reinstall sensor onto pedal while aligning sensor shaft drive tang and slot of sensor by rotating sensor and wiring harness away from footpad. After sensor is fully seated against footpad (no gap), hold in place while inserting two new sensor screws and washers from kit and tighten screws.
7. Reinstall P-clips and connect electrical connector.
8. Start engine and check Electronic Foot Pedal for proper operation. If not operating properly, follow standard troubleshooting procedures.