

R02GR

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 exist in certain 2002-2004 model year Blue Bird TC/2000 and All American front engine school and transit buses and Commercial Series front engine transit buses manufactured from December 17, 2001 through October 28, 2002 and equipped with hydraulic brakes. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

The defect involves the routing of the hydraulic brake hoses at the rear axle. The hydraulic brake hoses may not have been routed properly on subject buses. Improper routing of the hydraulic brake hoses could result in the hoses contacting the frame or frame components and abrading.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to this defect is the potential for loss of hydraulic brake pressure at the rear axle in the event a hose abrades and ruptures. This could result in a vehicle crash without prior warning.

Your buses should be inspected immediately for proper hydraulic brake hose routing per the attached "Instructions for Inspecting and Rerouting Rear Hydraulic Brake Hose with Meritor Axle".

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R02GR 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 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.

No parts are required unless the hose contacts the frame and abrasion is found. Replacement hydraulic brake hoses, if needed, should be ordered from your usual Blue Bird service parts source.

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 reposition hydraulic brake hoses is 0.1 hours (6 minutes) for each side of rear axle that requires modification according to the instructions provided. A total of 0.2 hours (12 minutes) is required to relocate hydraulic brake hoses on both sides of rear axle, if required.

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 R02GR
INSTRUCTIONS FOR INSPECTING AND REROUTING
REAR HYDRAULIC BRAKE HOSE WITH MERITOR AXLE

1. Park bus on a level surface, apply parking brake, turn engine off, and remove ignition key.
2. Chock wheels.
3. Review both left hand and right hand rear hydraulic brake hoses from the frame to the caliper assembly for rubbing, chaffing or abrasions. If a hydraulic brake hose has any damage, replace hose with Blue Bird # 0043758 Hose Assembly. Bleed brakes following Meritor instructions in Meritor Maintenance Manual MM-2075 or Meritor WABCO Maintenance Manual No. 39. Note: Both right hand and left hand hose assemblies are the same.
4. Review Illustration for left hand and right hand hose routing and clamp locations.
5. If the hose routing matches Illustration, STOP, no further action is required. IF NOT, reroute the hose (s) to match Illustration.
6. To reroute hose(s), remove 3/8" nut, flat washer and bolt. For right side, remove clamp from hose; reinstall clamp as shown in Detail A on Illustration. For left side, remove clamp from hose; reinstall clamp as shown in Detail B on Illustration. Reinstall 3/8" bolt, flat washer, and nut. Torque nut to 25-30 Ft. Lbs.
7. After completing, remove wheel chock(s).

