

R04HU

July 30, 2004

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 certain 2004 model year Blue Bird Express coaches manufactured from July 07, 2003 through June 25, 2004 fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 121, (Air Brake Systems).

These coaches were manufactured without the check valve, which protects the front service brake reservoir. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this noncompliance.

Blue Bird Body Company's evaluation of the risk to motor vehicle safety reasonably related to this noncompliance is that the front service brake reservoir system is not protected against a loss of air pressure in the supply reservoir. Such a loss of air pressure could result in longer stopping distances which, could result in a crash leading to property damage or personal injury. A low air audible alarm will sound and a visual indicator light will illuminate when the pressure drops below 65 psi.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R04HU 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.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

To receive parts required to correct this condition, confirm your correct **shipping** address, sign and return the enclosed **yellow** parts request sheet and return it to Blue Bird in the enclosed **pink** postage prepaid reply envelope. Parts will be shipped "No Charge" to you via UPS.

A qualified technician should perform this modification or you may contact your customer service representative for assistance.

Time required to perform recall R03HU is 0.5 hr (30 minutes) per coach. 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.

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
400 SEVENTH STREET, SW
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 R04HU FMVSS 121 Air Brake Systems Noncompliance Front Brake Service Tank Check Valve Installation Instructions

A check valve must be installed in the 3/8" (red) supply line at the front brake service reservoir tank in order to conform to FMVSS 121, section 5.1.2.3 requirements. Instructions for installing the required check valve are provided below.

Warning

Vehicle must be firmly supported with jack stands prior to servicing. Failure to do so could result in personal injury or property damage.

Procedure for rework:

1. Park unit on level surface.
2. Locate the front brake service reservoir air tank inside the back section of left front wheel housing area.
3. Start engine and turn steering wheel to the right until axle stops are contacted.
4. Turn ignition off and remove the keys from unit.
5. Support the chassis frame with adequate jack stands forward of the front suspension.
6. Drain air from front brake tank.

Warning

Vehicle suspension may lower as the air is released from the front brake tank. Do not have arms, legs, or other parts of body in harms way. Failure to do so could result in personal injury.

7. Accessing the tank from the left front wheel housing area, remove 3/8" red line from quick connect fitting on top rear of tank. Reference **FIGURE 1**.
8. Remove the 3/8" NPT X 3/8" tubing elbow from the tank.
9. Using appropriate thread sealer, taking care not to cover the fitting openings, install the fittings as follows:

ITEM	PART NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1	0970327	1/2" FPT X 3/8" NPT adapter into tank
2	0001135	1/2" street elbow check valve into adapter
3	0009919	1/2" NPT X 3/8" Tubing fitting into check valve elbow

10. Reinstall 3/8" red supply line to tube fitting.
11. Start unit to build air pressure to full system pressure and check for leaks.
12. Remove jack stands from frame rail.
13. Operate kneeling system or other air operated accessory several times and check the front air brake gauge on dash for system pressure lowering as kneeling system operates up and down. If no air pressure change, system is operating correctly.

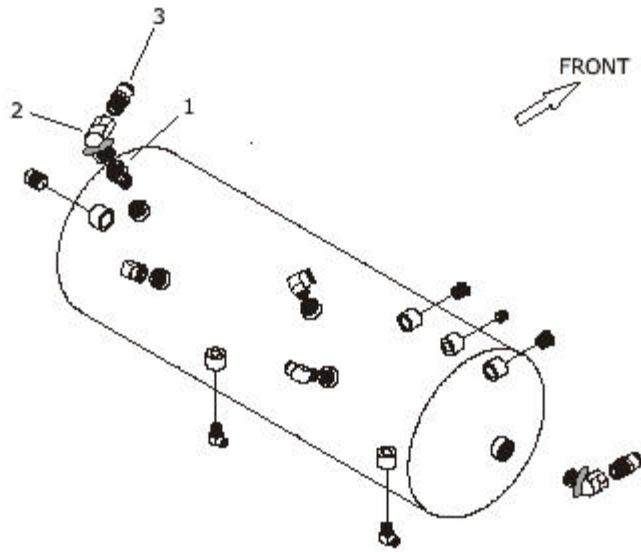


FIGURE 1