



R19AA

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

NHTSA Recall Number: 19V-391 School Bus
NHTSA Recall Number: 19V-393 Non-School Bus

DATE: July 18, 2019

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

SUBJECT: R19AA – Bendix ADB22X LH Rear Caliper

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

This important safety recall notice applies to your bus(es) identified by both Blue Bird Body Number and Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) on the enclosed white cover sheet. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the white reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

Blue Bird Body Company and Bendix Spicer Foundation Brake, LLC are recalling certain model year 2015-2020 Vision and All American school buses manufactured from November 15, 2013 through April 10, 2019, and certain model year 2018-2019 Vision and All American non-school buses manufactured from July 30, 2014 through March 28, 2019. The ADB22X air disc brake on the left (driver's side) rear corner of the bus may experience an unintended reduction in the gap between the brake pad and rotor (running clearance) during operation. This can lead to a dragging brake and/or a melted wheel speed sensor. In the context of this voluntary safety recall, dragging brake is defined as a brake that has zero gap between the pad and the rotor (running clearance) – with no pressure applied by the driver – until the pad wears and re-establishes the gap between the pad and the rotor. This condition results from the brake product's prior generation adjustment mechanism design. Due to the direction of wheel rotation, the left rear adjustment mechanism is more susceptible to unintended adjustment. Even though a school bus has air disc brakes on all four-vehicle wheel-ends, the brake application on the rear axle is of longer duration and has a different pattern of apply and release. The rapid release of high brake forces may cause an unintended adjustment, which may decrease running clearance and can contribute to a dragging brake (as defined earlier) and/or could lead to a melted wheel speed sensor.

If the gap between the brake pad and rotor is eliminated, it may lead to high temperatures at the wheel end. The left rear ABS sensor wire may become damaged due to high temperatures and set an ABS fault which illuminates the ABS dash warning light. The high temperatures may lead to the presence of smoke, smoke odor, or in remote cases a potential for fire, which could result in school bus emergency evacuation procedures in uncontrolled traffic situations. Either condition increases the risk of injury.



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To correct this issue, Bendix will provide replacement kits for left rear ADB22X calipers on applicable buses. The kit will contain a new caliper with an updated clearance adjustment mechanism and necessary hardware to install the caliper assembly. The kits will be installed through an authorized location at no cost to the vehicle owner. The remedy component has an updated clearance adjustment mechanism that is internal to the ADB22X assembly.

Blue Bird and Bendix are actively working through the administration details for the execution of this recall campaign. **Blue Bird will provide supplemental information regarding the contact information for this recall campaign, as soon as, it becomes available.**

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

If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, attach a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the pink self-addressed postage prepaid envelope included with the pink reply sheet to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

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
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

Or, you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:
1-888-327-4236 TTY 1-800-424-9153 or go to: <http://www.safercar.gov>