

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

19V-795

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

Submission Date : FEB 14, 2020

NHTSA Recall No. : 19V-795

Manufacturer Recall No. : R19AI-SB



Manufacturer Information :

Population :

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

Number of potentially involved : 12,835

Address : P.O. Box 937
402 Blue Bird Boulevard Fort Valley
GA 31030

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Company phone : 478-822-2242

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2013-2020 Blue Bird Vision

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : CNG/LPG

Descriptive Information : The potential exists that the brake switch mounting bracket on certain MY 2013 to MY 2020 Blue Bird Vision buses equipped with Ford engines could deform as a result of a rapid return of the brake pedal to the non-braking position. This is most commonly a result of the driver's foot slipping off of the brake pedal while the pedal is fully depressed. A deformed brake switch mounting bracket could result in continuously illuminated brake lights and a brake warning light in the vehicle instrument cluster.

Production Dates : JAN 10, 2012 - AUG 07, 2019

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The potential exists that the brake switch mounting bracket on certain MY 2013 to MY 2020 Blue Bird Vision buses equipped with Ford engines could deform as a result of a rapid return of the brake pedal to the non-braking position. This is most commonly a result of the driver's foot slipping off of the brake pedal while the pedal is fully depressed. A deformed brake switch mounting bracket could result in continuously illuminated brake lights and a brake warning light in the vehicle instrument cluster.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : A deformed brake switch mounting bracket could result in continuously illuminated brake lights and a brake warning light in the vehicle instrument cluster. The possibility exists that a school bus driver may be required to pull

the vehicle over immediately to an unsafe location based on an illuminated brake warning light in the vehicle instrument cluster. The transfer of passengers between school buses in potentially hazardous conditions would increase the risk of injury.

Description of the Cause : The potential of a deformed brake switch mounting bracket is most commonly a result of the driver's foot slipping off of the brake pedal while the pedal is fully depressed which results in a rapid return of the brake pedal to the non-braking position.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : There is no audible or visual warning, which would precede an event.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

November 2012 – Blue Bird released recall 12V538 to update the brake switch mounting bracket on the initial 452 buses equipped with the Ford brake switch. At the time of this recall, very limited usage experience had been obtained and so in the absence of field data and in an abundance of caution, the decision was made to improve the brake light switch bracket to the mounting bracket design that was utilized through April 2019.

February 2019 – Based on a NHTSA inquiry, Blue Bird initiated a detailed analysis of the Ford brake switch mounting bracket warranty claims and service reports. Blue Bird has received four reports related to deformed brake switch mounting brackets. During this analysis, Blue Bird determined that the Ford brake switch warranty claims and service records could be related to potentially bent mounting brackets. The initial installation of a new Ford brake switch into an in-service bus would result in a new zero position for the brake switch which could correct for any mounting bracket deformation.

April 2019 – Blue Bird implemented a Bendix redesigned mounting bracket assembly into production as a continuing product improvement.

May 2019 – Blue Bird requested that Bendix develop a redesigned mounting bracket for fielded units.

June 2019 – Bendix provide preliminary information on a redesigned mounting bracket for fielded units.

October 2019 – Blue Bird confirmed that a deformed brake switch mounting bracket could result in a brake warning light in the vehicle instrument cluster.

November 2019 – Blue Bird initiated a recall campaign out of an abundance of caution given that the possibility exists that a school bus driver may be required to pull the vehicle over immediately to an unsafe location based on an illuminated brake warning light in the vehicle instrument cluster.

UPDATE: Additional chronology attached as a separate Miscellaneous Document.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Blue Bird will provide the affected dealers and owners with instructions on how to remove the existing brake switch mounting bracket and install the provided redesigned mounting bracket. Blue Bird will also provide a new Ford brake switch as part of the kit to ensure that the switch has the correct set point after the new brake switch mounting bracket is installed.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Blue Bird customer and dealer notification letters will be mailed via first class mail. Blue Bird will utilize the available registration records to determine the appropriate addresses for the affected units. Blue Bird's Interim Letter was issued on December 10, 2019. Providing parts are available, Blue Bird plans to initiate Dealer and Owner Notification Letters on March 31, 2020.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 31, 2020 - MAR 31, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 31, 2020 - MAR 31, 2020

* NR - Not Reported