

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21V-300

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company**Submission Date :** AUG 31, 2021**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21V-300**Manufacturer Recall No. :** R21BG-SB**Manufacturer Information :****Population :**

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

Number of potentially involved : 302

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 : 2018-2021 Blue Bird Vision

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

Descriptive Information : The subject Electric Drivetrain consists of high voltage batteries and other components to control and distribute high voltage to a drive motor and other components. The system may also supply and control power to an electrically assisted power steering pump, which is supplied by Cummins. These systems were sold as original equipment in certain school buses and as original or upfit equipment in certain medium duty trucks. This recall consists of the entire population of systems built prior to February 23, 2021.

Production Dates : JAN 19, 2019 - APR 02, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2018-2021 Blue Bird All American

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

Descriptive Information : The subject Electric Drivetrain consists of high voltage batteries and other components to control and distribute high voltage to a drive motor and other components. The system may also supply and control power to an electrically assisted power steering pump, which is supplied by Cummins. These systems were sold as original equipment in certain school buses and as original or upfit equipment in certain medium duty trucks. This recall consists of the entire population of systems built prior to February 23, 2021.

Production Dates : AUG 01, 2018 - APR 20, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR

 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Due to electromagnetic noise on the Control Area Network (CAN) bus, the subject Electric Drivetrain systems may experience loss of control of the inverter that provides electrical power to the power steering pump, possibly resulting in the loss of electrically assisted power steering. Power steering functionality is restored after a keyswitch recycle.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In the event of loss of power steering assist, manual steering functionality is retained but would require increased steering effort, particularly at lower speeds, increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : The cause is electrical noise on the CAN bus.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : None

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Harness, Wiring (Cummins)

Component Description : Thermal Management System Harness (Cummins)

Component Part Number : 200164

Component Name 2 : Harness, Wiring (Cummins)

Component Description : High Voltage Low Power Inverter Harness (Cummins)

Component Part Number : 300179

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Cummin, Incorporated

Address : 500 Jackson Street
Columbus Indiana 47202-3005

Country : United States

Chronology :

Monday, April 26, 2021: Blue Bird received notification via e-mail that Cummins issued a Safety Recall on certain PowerDrive EV Electric Drivetrains.

The remaining chronology was provided by Cummins:

December 9, 2020: Cummins' product safety team initiated an investigation into reports of temporary loss of power steering in vehicles equipped with the subject engines. The investigation included a review of data and consideration of a prior design review for wiring harness modifications and root cause analysis.

January 28 - February 22, 2021: Cummins conducted a Product Safety Hazard Analysis.

March 12 - April 12, 2021: Cummins escalated the issue through its Product Safety Defect Board process and gathered additional data, including conducting a demonstration of the failure in a test vehicle.

April 13, 2021: Based upon the information developed during the investigation, Cummins' Product Safety Defect Board decided to conduct a safety campaign to address this condition. To date, there have been no reports of accidents or injuries related to this condition.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Pursuant to 49 CFR 577.11(e), Cummins requests that it be exempt from providing notification of a reimbursement plan. Any pre-notification product failure would have been replaced under the manufacturer's limited warranty. Accordingly, no person would be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to 573.13. Cummins Amendment: Cummins will replace the High Voltage Low Power Inverter Harness and provide an overlay harness to update the wiring for the Thermal Management System Harness.

Cummins is developing the remedy and will amend this report accordingly.
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How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Cummins states this condition was corrected in a wire harness change that was implemented in production on February 23, 2021. Amendment: The new and overlay wire harnesses will have unique part numbers.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Cummins states this condition was corrected in a wire harness change that was implemented in production on February 23, 2021.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer and Owner Notifications are to be issued on or before June 25, 2021.

Parts are required, but undetermined by Cummins at this time.

Cummins expects to send interim notification letters to owners by May 28, 2021. The remedy is expected to be available and communicated to dealers on or about September 1, 2021. Cummins expects to mail owner letters

communicating the availability of the remedy during September 2021.

Amendment: The remedy is expected to be available and communicated

to dealers on or about October 1, 2021. Cummins expects to mail owner letters communicating the availability of the remedy during October 2021. Interim letters were previously issued.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 01, 2021 - OCT 01, 2021

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUN 25, 2021 - JUN 25, 2021

* NR - Not Reported