

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20V-074

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company**Submission Date :** FEB 11, 2020**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-074**Manufacturer Recall No. :** R20AL-SB**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

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

Company phone : 478-822-2242

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 58

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2019 Blue Bird Vision

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

Descriptive Information : On certain Blue Bird Vision and All American electric school buses sold with PowerDrive 7000 EV electric drivetrain units, a connector within the wire harnesses installed in the subject EV drivetrains may be susceptible to becoming unplugged. If the connector becomes unplugged, under certain circumstances the communication between control modules may be lost and the system may command off the high voltage contactors, resulting in unexpected loss of all systems powered by high voltage, including the traction drive system and power steering.

Production Dates : JAN 19, 2019 - SEP 09, 2019

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2018-2019 Blue Bird All American

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

Descriptive Information : On certain Blue Bird Vision and All American electric school buses sold with PowerDrive 7000 EV electric drivetrain units, a connector within the wire harnesses installed in the subject EV drivetrains may be susceptible to becoming unplugged. If the connector becomes unplugged, under certain circumstances the communication between control modules may be lost and the system may command off the high voltage contactors, resulting in unexpected loss of all systems powered by high voltage, including the traction drive system and power steering.

Production Dates : AUG 01, 2018 - JAN 30, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : On certain Blue Bird Vision and All American electric school buses sold with PowerDrive 7000 EV electric drivetrain units, a connector within the wire harnesses installed in the subject EV drivetrains may be susceptible to becoming unplugged. If the connector becomes unplugged, under certain circumstances the communication between control modules may be lost and the system may command off the high voltage contactors, resulting in unexpected loss of all systems powered by high voltage, including the traction drive system and power steering.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : A sudden and simultaneous loss of motive power and loss of power steering may increase the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : The cause of this condition is the susceptibility of the connector coming unplugged during normal vehicle operation, resulting in loss of electrical connection.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : A warning may be displayed to the driver for approximately three seconds prior to the loss of motive power and power steering.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Cummin, Incorporated

Address : 500 Jackson Street
Columbus INDIANA 47202-3005

Country : United States

Chronology :

6/18/2019 – Cummins received a report of loss of motive power and loss of power steering in a Blue Bird school bus equipped with a subject PowerDrive system while being serviced by a Cummins service engineer. The service engineer determined that a CAN connector between the Battery Disconnect Unit and the System Control Module became unplugged. The lost connection was restored, the unit then performed normally, and the unit was returned to the customer. 6/18/2019 – 10/24/2019 – Cummins received internal (non-customer) accounts that other, similar connectors had become unplugged without a loss of motive power or loss of power steering. Cummins investigated the issues and evaluated potential improvements. 10/24/2019 – Cummins began installing a cable tie on the subject connectors in production to maintain the connector locking tab in the locked position as Cummins continued to investigate the issue. 11/24/2019 - As a quality improvement action, Cummins provided instructions to a limited number of Cummins field personnel (field service technicians and service engineers) for installing cable ties on affected vehicles when the vehicles were available for service. 11/27/2019 – 1/14/2019 - Cummins conducted a Product Safety Hazard Analysis. 1/28/2020 – Based upon

the results of the investigation and evaluation of the issue, and although there have been no reports of loss of motive power or loss of power steering other than during the above mentioned service event, Cummins decided to conduct a safety recall 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 : Cummins will work with its OEM customers to identify and notify affected vehicle owners and to arrange to have the remedy performed that addresses this condition. The remedy is to install a cable tie around the connector body, routed under the connector locking tab, forcing it into the locked position so that it cannot unplug. Cummins will work directly with affected customers and a limited number of service engineers and field technicians to implement the remedy.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

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

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Cummins expects to be able to immediately begin working with vehicle owners to have the remedy installed on their school buses. If required, Blue Bird will mail notification letters to the dealers and owners no later than April 3, 2020 for any remaining school buses that have not been remedy as of March 27, 2020.

Cummins to provide the cable ties which are available.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : APR 03, 2020 - APR 03, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : APR 03, 2020 - APR 03, 2020

* NR - Not Reported