

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20V-234

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company**Submission Date :** APR 27, 2020**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-234**Manufacturer Recall No. :** R20AO-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 : 2,264

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2006-2021 Blue Bird Vision

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : CNG/LPG

Descriptive Information : It has been determined that certain Blue Bird buses could fail to conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 105 "Hydraulic and Electric Brake Systems" requirements for the parking brake system requirements. Subject buses may fail to meet the FMVSS 105 S5.2.3 requirements for holding the vehicle stationary for 5 minutes on a 20% grade when loaded to its maximum gross vehicle weight. The potentially suspect population includes buses equipped with hydraulic brakes with a hand lever mounted on the right side of the driver seat to actuate the parking brake (feature 40049-03). Blue Bird shall conduct a voluntary safety recall to correct any potential noncompliance. Blue Bird has evaluated the risk to motor vehicle safety related to this noncompliance and determined that there is a potential for injury to the occupant and bystanders in the event that the parking brake system is set to an insufficient application force.

Production Dates : SEP 24, 2005 - FEB 13, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2007-2013 Blue Bird All American
Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES
Body Style : OTHER
Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : It has been determined that certain Blue Bird buses could fail to conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 105 "Hydraulic and Electric Brake Systems" requirements for the parking brake system requirements. Subject buses may fail to meet the FMVSS 105 S5.2.3 requirements for holding the vehicle stationary for 5 minutes on a 20% grade when loaded to its maximum gross vehicle weight. The potentially suspect population includes buses equipped with hydraulic brakes with a hand lever mounted on the right side of the driver seat to actuate the parking brake (feature 40049-03). Blue Bird shall conduct a voluntary safety recall to correct any potential noncompliance. Blue Bird has evaluated the risk to motor vehicle safety related to this noncompliance and determined that there is a potential for injury to the occupant and bystanders in the event that the parking brake system is set to an insufficient application force.

Production Dates : SEP 27, 2006 - JUN 15, 2012

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance : It has been determined that certain Blue Bird buses could fail to conform to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 105 "Hydraulic and Electric Brake Systems" requirements for the parking brake system requirements. Subject buses may fail to meet the FMVSS 105 S5.2.3 requirements for holding the vehicle stationary for 5 minutes on a 20% grade when loaded to its maximum gross vehicle weight. The potentially suspect population includes buses equipped with hydraulic brakes with a hand lever mounted on the right side of the driver seat to actuate the parking brake (feature 40049-03). Blue Bird shall conduct a voluntary safety recall to correct any potential noncompliance. Blue Bird has evaluated the risk to motor vehicle safety related to this noncompliance and determined that there is a potential for injury to the occupant and bystanders in the event that the parking brake system is set to an insufficient application force.

FMVSS 1 : 105 - Hydraulic and electric brake systems

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : There is an increase possibility of unintended movement when the vehicle is parked in the event that the parking brake system is set to an insufficient application force. Should the vehicle experience the unintended movement when the vehicle is parked then there is a potential for injury to the occupant and bystanders.

Description of the Cause : Blue Bird determined that manufacturing variation may have resulted in a lower application force than intended for unit equipped with hydraulic brakes and a right-hand floor mounted hand lever park brake. Additionally, Blue Bird

determined that the hand lever application force may not be checked in accordance with the service manual recommendations. The inspection interval presented in the service manual for the hand brake lever application force is every month or 3,000 miles. For these reasons, Blue Bird is conducting a voluntary safety recall to correct any potential FMVSS 105 noncompliance when loaded to the maximum gross vehicle weight on a 20% grade.

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

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

On October 28, 2019, a Blue Bird Field Service representative reviewed a bus that experienced a rollback event with the parking brake engaged. This bus is equipped with hydraulic brakes with a right-hand floor mounted hand lever park brake lever. Upon inspection, it was determined that the hand lever application force was under the requirements, as stated in service manual. The inspection interval presented in the service manual for the hand brake lever application force is every month or 3,000 miles. On November 11, 2019, Blue Bird confirmed that neither the Dealer nor Owner had completed the application force inspection on the bus in question nor the other buses with the same parking brake configuration. In December 2019, Blue Bird surveyed other dealers with buses equipped with the same parking brake configuration and determined that this inspection requirement has a very low accomplishment rate. In January 2020, Blue Bird confirmed that the in-process certification inspection of the hand parking brake lever application force was being performed on every unit. In February 2020, Blue Bird completed an internal audit on the original hand parking brake lever application force inspection point and determined that manufacturing variation may have resulted in a lower application force than intended. In April 2020, Blue Bird determined that buses equipped with hydraulic

brakes with a right-hand floor mounted hand park brake lever and a delivery date before March, 2020, should be recalled to confirm that the application force is set to the requirement.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Blue Bird will notify the affected dealers and owners that the application force of the floor mounted park brake hand lever assembly must be inspected and set according to the Blue Bird Service Manual requirements, if found to be incorrect.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : NR

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

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : No Parts are Required for this campaign. Dealer and Owner Notification to be issued on or before June 24, 2020.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : JUN 24, 2020 - JUN 24, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUN 24, 2020 - JUN 24, 2020

* NR - Not Reported