

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20V-356

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

Submission Date : JUN 15, 2020

NHTSA Recall No. : 20V-356

Manufacturer Recall No. : R20AW-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 : 1,471

Estimated percentage with defect : 20 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2019-2021 Blue Bird Vision

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : CNG/LPG

Descriptive Information : On certain Blue Bird Vision, the castle nut that attaches the drag link to the steering arm may not have been torqued to factory specifications on the affected buses. Improperly torqued drag link castle nuts could cause excessive movement at the drag link to steering arm connection which could lead to potential separation of the drag link from the steering arm and loss of steering control. Blue Bird has evaluated the risk to motor vehicle safety related to this condition and determined that there is a potential for injury to the occupants and bystanders in the event that the drag link was improperly assembled. Blue Bird shall conduct a voluntary safety recall to correct this potential issue.

Production Dates : MAY 10, 2019 - JUL 30, 2019

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : On certain Blue Bird Vision, the castle nut that attaches the drag link to the steering arm may not have been torqued to factory specifications on the affected buses. Improperly torqued drag link castle nuts could cause excessive movement at the drag link to steering arm connection which could lead to potential separation of the drag link from the steering arm and loss of steering control. Blue Bird has evaluated the risk to motor vehicle safety related to this condition and determined that there is a potential for injury to the occupants and bystanders in the event that the drag link was improperly assembled. Blue Bird shall conduct a voluntary safety recall to correct this potential issue.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Blue Bird has evaluated the risk to motor vehicle safety related to this condition and determined that there is a potential for injury to the occupants and bystanders in the event that the drag link was improperly assembled.

Description of the Cause : Blue Bird determined that one of the manufacturing associates was not properly executing the required assembly process.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Any potential issues with fielded units should be detected by the pre-trip inspection, as required of all CDL holders.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Drag Link Assembly

Component Description : Drag Link Assy, Steering, Fixed

Component Part Number : 10029062

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

On July 22, 2019, during a Blue Bird dealer pre-delivery inspection it was discovered that the drag link castle nut was not torqued to factory specifications. On July 23, 2019, Quality inspection added the drag link nut torque verification to the daily critical torque check inspection. Blue Bird opened an investigation into the loose castle nut on a drag link. On July 29th, this item was presented to Blue Bird's Product Issue Resolution team. During the initial investigation, it was determined that one of the manufacturing associates was not properly executing the required assembly process. All of the responsible manufacturing associates received additional training on the proper assembly of the steering components. Blue Bird launched a containment on all units on property where the cotter pin was removed, and the castle nut was verified for torque. Issues with fielded units should have been detected by the pre-trip inspection, as required of all CDL holders. On January 8, 2020, Blue Bird received a second dealer report of five buses with a loose castle nut on the drag linkage. The chassis for these units were built within the previous suspect date range. These units had already been delivered to the dealer at the time of the on-site containment. On January 13, 2020, Blue Bird's Critical Issue Review Group (CIRG) was informed about the defect and the CIRG team requested a deeper understanding of

the function of the drag link cotter pin and the CDL pre-trip inspection requirements. On June 1, 2020, the CIRG team confirmed that there were no additional reported incidents related to loose drag link components. The CIRG team presented the investigation results to Blue Bird's Product Safety Committee on June 10, 2020. On June 10, 2020, Blue Bird's Product Safety Committee determined that Blue Bird shall conduct a voluntary safety recall to correct any potential noncompliance.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	To correct this condition, the castle nuts at both ends of drag link assembly must be inspected for proper torque and torqued properly according to the Blue Bird provided instructions if necessary.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	This campaign does not require the replacement of existing components.
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	On July 23, 2019, Quality inspection added the drag link nut torque verification to the daily critical torque check inspection. Additionally, all of the responsible manufacturing associates received additional training on the proper assembly of the steering components.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	Dealer and Owner Notification Letters will be issued on or before August 12, 2020. No parts are required for this campaign.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	AUG 12, 2020 - AUG 12, 2020
Planned Owner Notification Date :	AUG 12, 2020 - AUG 12, 2020

* NR - Not Reported