

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

24V-599

Manufacturer Name : Blue Bird Body Company

Submission Date : AUG 19, 2024

NHTSA Recall No. : 24V-599

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



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 : 8,294

Estimated percentage with defect : 10 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2016-2021 Blue Bird Vision School Bus

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : OTHER

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : All buses with 6.8L gasoline engine are included in this recall population. We incorporated new gasoline engine platform from 2021 and this component was replaced.

Production Dates : JAN 27, 2016 - FEB 10, 2021

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR **End :** NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : It was determined that in certain 6.8L gasoline engine powered school buses, coating at the ends of gasoline supply lines can be damaged. This causes fuel to wick underneath the coating and leak through the quick connect fitting.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : The exhaust manifold is a heat source and if the Y pipe fuel line leaks on the exhaust manifold, it could be a potential source for fire.

Description of the Cause : The coating should have terminated before the knurl on any pressure line but it was identified that the coating went to the end of line, including the area that goes into the quick connect. This was not as per normal design guidelines.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : There can be some fuel leakage that can be noticed if the vehicle is parked in a same spot for a long time. It can also be detected during annual inspection.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : Tube Assembly, Fuel/VPR, Engine BNDL, Gas, M10

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : 10046465

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Martinrea International

Address : 3210 Langstaff Rd
Ontario Foreign States L4K 5B2

Country : Canada

Chronology :

June 2024: Blue Bird received information from our dealers about experiencing fuel leaks.

June 2024 – July 2024: Blue Bird reviewed Martinrea's detailed test results from their component testing. Blue Bird also did an engineering evaluation of sample parts. During these tests and evaluation, it was documented that the fuel lines with chipped or damaged coating could fail the pressure leak test under certain conditions. Due to this chipped or damaged coating, the fuel can wick underneath the coating and cause a leak at the end of a quick connect fitting.

August 2024: Blue Bird determined that this issue is indeed safety related and agreed to submit a defect report and work towards a recall.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Issue recall Campaign to inspect all 6.8L gasoline units for a fuel leak condition. If a leak is found, the affected fuel line needs to be replaced with a new fuel line with proper coating specification. Additionally, decrease the inspection intervals from 12mo/90k miles to 3mo/5k miles. Blue Bird Recall R20AQ will be remedied according to the R20AQ Recall Instructions. Blue Bird will reimburse the labor cost of the repair related to this recall at no cost to the Dealer or the vehicle owner. Please contact your local Blue Bird dealer to arrange to have the Recall performed. To locate an authorized dealer, search online at www.blue-bird.com/find-a-dealer Parts are currently available and can be ordered campaignparts@blue-bird.com or through your local Blue Bird Dealer. If the modifications directed by this notification were performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, provide a copy of the work order/invoice to campaignparts@blue-bird.com for Blue Bird warranty consideration. Parts are required and may be ordered through campaignparts@blue-bird.com

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Remedy component has coating done as per the design requirements.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : This condition was corrected the day we introduced new 7.3L gasoline engine in production. This engine replaced 6.8L engine and hence affected part became obsolete.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealer and Owner Notifications are to be issued on or before October 11th, 2024. Parts will be available at time of recall release.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 11, 2024 - OCT 11, 2024

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 11, 2024 - OCT 11, 2024

* NR - Not Reported