

**R06KS**

**DATE: MAY 05, 2006**

**TO: U.S. DISTRIBUTORS**

**SUBJECT: RECALL R06KS RICON WHEELCHAIR LIFT VERTICAL  
CONTROL ARM WELD CRACKS**

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2006 model year Blue Bird All American school and transit buses and 2006 model year Blue Bird "Vision" conventional school buses equipped with a Ricon 5500 series platform wheelchair lift.

Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect. Buses with the defect must be corrected by an authorized Ricon dealer.

If our records indicate affected units were delivered in your service area, a printout identifying affected units is enclosed. **Note: Blue Bird does not maintain Ricon wheelchair lift serial numbers. Therefore, some units on the attached list will have serial numbers that are not in the recall list provided by Ricon. A reply sheet is provided for recording the Ricon serial number for each body number.**

It is the distributor's responsibility to verify that the correct owner name, address and telephone number is provided for each listed vehicle. Any corrections or updates should be made on BBOND. Addresses that cannot be updated on BBOND should be forwarded to the Recall Administrator.

If you have in your possession or have sold a vehicle that was purchased from another distributor that may be affected by this recall, please notify me at 478-822-2242.

Labor time authorized to remove and replace both vertical control arms is 1 hour per bus.

Blue Bird distributors that are also Ricon dealers must file for warranty reimbursement directly to Ricon Corporation.

Blue Bird distributors that are not Ricon dealers may submit warranty applications to Blue Bird VIA ClaimTrac (use create campaign/bulletin claim).

**All claims must have the Ricon wheelchair lift serial number indicated in the text section of the warranty claim. Claims for replacement of vertical control arms will only be accepted for wheelchair lifts with serial numbers in the recall population as identified by Ricon. A list of the affected Ricon serial numbers is attached.**

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Distributors are reminded of their responsibilities under section 154 of The National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1991. Dealers are required to complete modifications/repairs on units in their inventory before delivering to the final owner. Reference Blue Bird Body Company Distributor Memo No. 42-92.

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

Bill Coleman  
Recall Administrator

**R06KS**

May 12, 2006

Dear Blue Bird Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Blue Bird Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2006 model year Blue Bird All American school and transit buses and 2006 model year Blue Bird "Vision" conventional school buses equipped with a Ricon 5500 series platform wheelchair lift. Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this defect.

The defect involves the weld joint on the vertical control arms on the Ricon model 5500 series wheelchair platform lift. The welding process used by Ricon may not have achieved full penetration along the seam of the weld which may result in the weld cracking along the exterior portion of the vertical arm. In the event this condition occurs during passenger operation it may not be possible to close the lift door causing the vehicle interlocks to remain engaged preventing movement of the vehicle or the ability to load or unload passengers with disabilities from the vehicle.

Buses with the defect must be corrected by an authorized Ricon dealer. A list of the Ricon wheelchair lift serial numbers included in this recall is attached. If your serial number is included you should make an appointment as soon as possible with your authorized Ricon dealer to have the vertical control arm welds inspected. If the inspection finds a cracked weld, both vertical control arms must be replaced.

When the wheelchair lift has been inspected and/or corrected complete the attached reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the postage paid pink reply envelope.

If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the pink reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

Your Ricon dealer will perform the inspection and if necessary replacement of the vertical control arms at no cost to you. If you are not reimbursed you may contact your Blue Bird distributor for assistance. Labor time required to inspect the vertical control arm welds and remove and replace the vertical control arm is 1 hour per lift.

If the modifications/repair directed by this notification was performed on your bus prior to the receipt of this recall notification, complete and sign the recall reply sheet and attached a copy of the work order/invoice. Mail the documents in the **pink** self-addressed postage paid envelope included with the recall notification to Blue Bird for warranty consideration. Reimbursements will be made in accordance with the requirements of the National Highway Transportation Safety Act, title 49 Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 573 and 577.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

If Blue Bird Body Company should fail to or is unable to remedy this condition without charge to you, you may contact:

**ADMINISTRATOR  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION  
400 SEVENTH STREET, SW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590**

or you may call The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration toll free at:

1-888-327-4236  
TTY: 1-800-424-9153  
or got to: <http://www.safecar.gov>

Questions regarding this recall campaign should be directed to me at (478) 822-2242.

Thank you,

Bill Coleman  
Recall Administrator  
**BLUE BIRD CORPORATION**

## Recall R06KS Completion Reply Sheet

When the welds on the Ricon Series 5500 Wheelchair platform lift vertical control arms have been inspected and, if necessary, replaced on your bus(es) please complete the form below and return to Blue Bird in the pink reply envelope provided.

Blue Bird Body Number	Ricon Serial Number	Serial Number On Recall	Weld Cracked		Date Completed
			Left Side	Right Side	

Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_