



R09PY

**DATE: DECEMBER 23, 2009**

**TO: U.S. DEALERS**

**SUBJECT: RECALL R09PY FMVSS 221 SCHOOL BUS BODY JOINT  
STRENGTH NONCOMPLIANCE-INCORRECT  
NUMBER OF RIVETS IN FRONT ROOF CAP**

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

Blue Bird Body Company has decided that certain 2008 through 2010 model year Blue Bird Micro Bird model school buses manufactured at Fort Valley Georgia from August 28, 2007 through October 29, 2009 fail to conform to the National Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 221 "School Bus Body Joint Strength".

On the subject buses, an incorrect number of rivets may have been installed in sections of the front roof cap joint that attaches it to the front roof sheet. In the event of a crash, these panels may separate exposing the occupants to increased risk of injury.

Blue Bird is conducting a recall to correct this noncompliance. Buses with the noncompliance must be corrected according to the instructions provided with recall R09PY, copy attached.

If our records indicate affected units were delivered in your service area, a printout identifying affected units is enclosed. If you have in your possession or have sold a vehicle that was purchased from another dealer that may be affected by this recall, please notify me at 478-822-2242.

**Parts needed to correct this condition are being shipped "no charge" directly to owners with the notification letter. Dealers must review their list of affected units and provide current accurate shipping addresses (no P.O. boxes) to ensure proper delivery of recall parts to owners. UPS does not deliver to post office boxes.**

Dealers needing parts for their stock units must request parts through Blue Bird Recall Administration. Submit your request via email to [bill.coleman@blue-bird.com](mailto:bill.coleman@blue-bird.com). Recall number, body number(s) and UPS shipping addresses must be include in the email request.

**BLUE BIRD CORPORATION**  
P.O. Box 937 • Fort Valley, Georgia 31030  
Phone: (478) 825-2021

Labor time allowed for installing rivets will be reimbursed at 2 minutes per rivet. A template will be provided to determine placement of rivets at time of installation. **Since parts are being provided prior to beginning work, inspection time is only allowed if no rivets were installed.**

Warranty applications for labor reimbursement may be submitted to Blue Bird iWarranty (Campaigns/Claims).

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

Dealers 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 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  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
Blue Bird Corporation



**R09PY**

December 23, 2009

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 Body Company has decided that certain 2008 through 2010 model year Blue Bird Micro Bird model school buses manufactured at Fort Valley Georgia from August 28, 2007 through October 29, 2009 fail to conform to the National Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 221 "School Bus Body Joint Strength".

On the subject buses, an incorrect number of rivets may have been installed in sections of the front roof cap joint that attaches it to the front roof sheet. In the event of a crash, these panels may separate exposing the occupants to increased risk of injury.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by recall R09PY are identified by body serial number(s) on the enclosed reply sheets. If you no longer own the subject bus(es), please complete the appropriate section of the pink cover sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

Parts required to correct this condition are included with this notification letter. A template is provided to determine placement of additional rivets at time of installation.

Labor time allowed for installing rivets will be reimbursed at two (2) minutes per rivet.

To receive reimbursement for labor complete the pink request for labor reimbursement form as follows:

If no rivets were required enter "0" in column "A" on the pink request for reimbursement reply sheet.

If rivets were required, enter the number of rivets installed in column "B" of the pink request for reimbursement reply sheet. Sign and return the reply sheet in one of the enclosed pink reply envelopes.

You may contact your Blue Bird dealer to arrange to have this recall performed. Or, if you prefer, you may perform this recall yourself or have a qualified repair facility convenient to you perform this recall. A qualified technician should perform this recall.

**BLUE BIRD CORPORATION**  
P.O. Box 937 • Fort Valley, Georgia 31030  
Phone: (478) 825-2021

If the modifications/repairs directed by this notification were 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  
1200 NEW JERSEY AVENUE, SE  
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 go to: <http://www.safercar.gov>

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

Thank you,



Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
**BLUE BIRD CORPORATION**



## Front Roof Cap Joint Strength Noncompliance

RECALL

**Models Affected:** 2008 through 2010 model Blue Bird **Micro Bird** school buses manufactured at Fort Valley, Georgia from July 22, 2007 through November 28, 2009

### ISSUE

On some units, the incorrect amount of adhesive may have been used in some segments of the front roof sheet and front roof cap joint, resulting in noncompliance with FMVSS 221, School Bus Body Joint Strength.

### CORRECTIVE ACTION

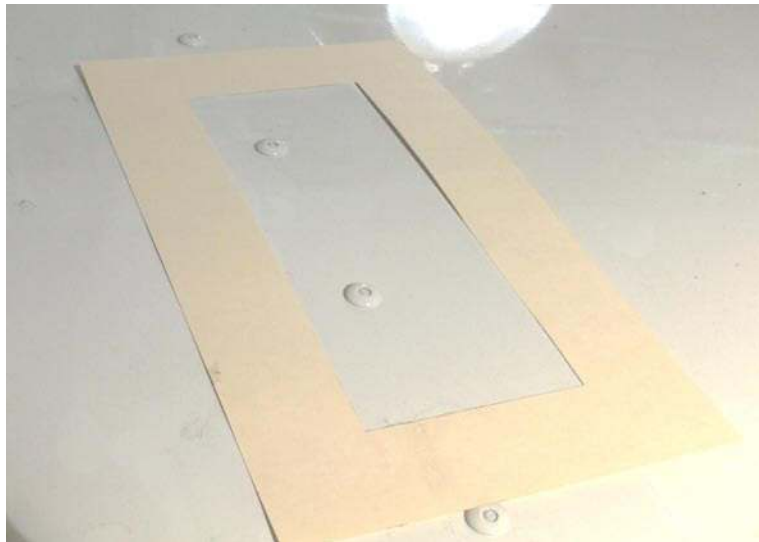
Inspect the rivet spacing at the joint and install additional rivets as required by specification.

### PROCEDURE

**WARNING:** Always follow all Federal, State, Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment when performing these procedures. This procedure requires working from ladders or scaffolds to reach the top of the bus. Observe all safety precautions to secure the bus from rolling and for use of ladders or scaffolds.

Park vehicle on level surface, apply parking brake, remove ignition key and chock wheels.

1. Inspect rivet spacing at front roof cap and front roof sheet joint. Joint must have a minimum of four rivets in any eight inch segment.
2. Place the template over the front roof cap joint rivets and parallel to the edge of the front roof cap, allowing front roof cap rivets to be exposed through the opening as illustrated below.



3. Move the template from one side of the front roof cap to the opposite side.
4. If a segment in the front roof cap joint contains less than four rivets, additional rivets are required. Mark each area that requires additional rivets.

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Front Roof Cap Joint Strength Noncompliance

RECALL

5. If one rivet is required; add a rivet equally spaced between the two rivets with the largest space in this section.
6. If additional rivets are required; add additional rivets between the largest spaces until a minimum of four (4) rivets have been added in the eight (8) inch segment.
7. Install rivets at each mark. Using a **short** 17/64" drill bit, drill a hole through the roof cap, roof sheet, and bow flange. Be sure to drill hole on a common centerline with existing rivets.
8. Place a small amount of Vinyl Gray 5522 Sealant (Blue Bird #00898627) in each drilled hole.
9. Install 1/4" blind rivets (Blue Bird # 01854397) into each hole.
10. Clean up any sealant that may have squeezed out or smeared during rivet installation.
11. Using the correct color paint, touch up the center of each blind rivet where the stem was removed during installation.

**PARTS LIST**

PART NUMBER	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION
00898627	1 per bus	Tube, Vinyl Gray 5522 Sealant
01854397	As Required	Rivet, .25" Blind

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