



R11SU

**DATE: JANUARY 26, 2011**

**TO: U.S. DEALERS**

**SUBJECT: RECALL R11SU FMVSS 221 JOINT STRENGTH NONCOMPLIANCE-  
ADHESIVE OMITTED AT 20 GAUGE OUTSIDE SIDE  
PANEL JOINTS**

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

Blue Bird has decided that a noncompliance which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2010 model year All American (D3) model school buses manufactured from April 13, 2010 through September 11, 2010. The subject buses fail to conform to the joint strength requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 221, "School Bus Body Joint Strength".

On the subject buses, adhesive may have been omitted at the joints of the outside 20 gauge side panels on both sides of bus. Buses without adhesive at the 20 gauge side panel joints fail to conform to the joint strength requirements of FMVSS No. 221 "School Bus Body Joint Strength". Bus passengers may sustain injuries in the event of a vehicle crash. Buses with this noncompliance must be corrected according to the enclosed instructions for Recall R11SU.

If our records indicate affected buses were delivered in your service area, a printout identifying affected buses is enclosed. **Dealers should verify correct owners and assure that complete shipping addresses are provided for each listed vehicle.**

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

Dealers must request parts from Blue Bird Recall Administration. Dealers will need to provide the body number when requesting parts.

**Owners are being advised to contact their Blue Bird dealers to arrange at time to have this work performed.**

Labor time to perform recall R11SU is 4.6 hour per bus.

Dealers may submit campaign claims in Blue Bird iWarranty.

**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**  
P.O. Box 937 – 402 Blue Bird Blvd – Fort Valley, Georgia – (478) 825-2021

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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Coleman".

Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
Blue Bird Corporation



R11SU

January 26, 2011

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 2010 model year All American (D3) model school buses manufactured from April 13, 2010 through September 11, 2010 fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 221, "School Bus Body Joint Strength".

On the subject buses, adhesive may have been omitted at the joints of the outside 20 gauge side panels on both sides of the bus. Buses without adhesive at the 20 gauge side panel joints fail to conform to the joint strength requirements of FMVSS No. 221 "School Bus Body Joint Strength". Bus passengers may be at an increased risk of injury in the event of a vehicle crash.

Buses with this noncompliance must be corrected immediately according to the enclosed instructions for Recall R11SU. Parts and labor required to complete Recall R11SU according to the attached instructions will be provided at no cost to you.

Your Blue Bird bus(es) affected by this recall 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 **yellow** parts request sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

**You should contact your Blue Bird dealer 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.

If you elect to perform this recall yourself, or have a qualified repair facility convenient to you perform this recall you should return the **yellow parts request sheet**, with a valid UPS delivery address, to Blue Bird in one of the enclosed pink, postage paid reply envelopes. The required rivets will be shipped to you or the repairing facility at "no charge".

Labor time to perform recall R11SU according to the attached instructions is 4.6 hours per bus.

**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**  
P.O. Box 937 – 402 Blue Bird Blvd – Fort Valley, Georgia – (478) 825-2021

If you perform Recall R11SU, or have a qualified repair facility convenient to you perform this recall, **reimbursement for labor** may be obtained by completing the pink request for reimbursement sheet provided and returning it to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

If the modifications 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](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**



# FMVSS 221 Joint Strength Noncompliance Adhesive Omitted on 20 Gauge Outside Side Panels

# RECALL

**Models Affected: 2010 Model Year All American (D3) Model School Buses  
with Optional 20 Gauge Outside Side Panels**

## ISSUE

Adhesive required to meet FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements may have been omitted at 20 gauge outside side panel joints.

## CORRECTIVE ACTION

Install additional rivets as required to comply with FMVSS 221 Joint Strength requirements.

## PROCEDURE

**WARNING:** Always follow all Federal, State, Local and Shop safety standards and use proper safety equipment when performing these procedures.

- Using a 17/64" drill bit, drill additional rivet holes at each outside side panel joint as indicated by white dash line in Photo #1 below. A drill stop set at 1/2" (0.50) must be used to prevent possible damage to wires in bow cavities. Be sure holes are evenly spaced between existing rivets and that holes stay in line with existing rivets.

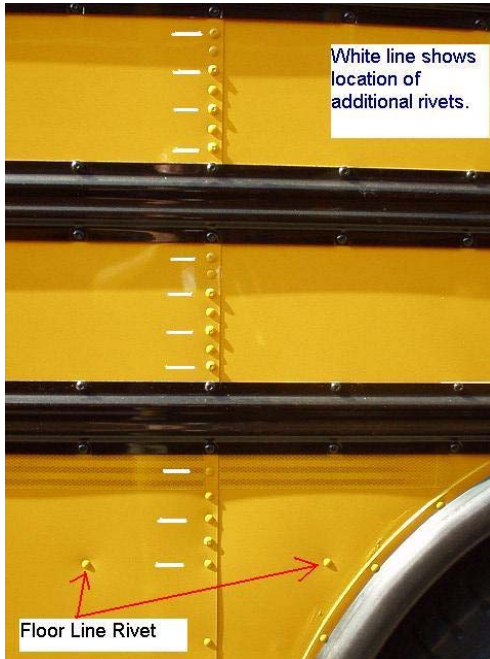


Photo 1  
Spacing from bottom edge of window line rub rail to floor line.

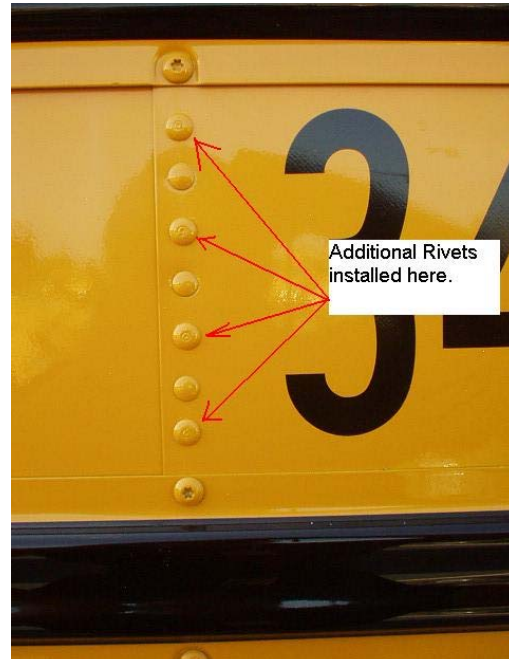


Photo 2  
Close up of spacing between rubrails

- Install part number #01854397 Rivet, Blind, .25 Dia, .38 grip, in each hole drilled using a rivet gun/tool.
- On the street side of the bus, remove the stop arm to allow installation of the additional rivets in beltline area, then reinstall stop arm.

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