



**R13WA**

**DATE: MARCH 20, 2013**

**TO: U.S. DEALERS**

**SUBJECT: RECALL R13WA ULTRA LF STEERING GEAR BRACKET**

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 2003-2007 model year Blue Bird produced Ultra LF non-school transit buses manufactured from March 14, 2003 to March 12, 2007.

On the subject buses, cracks may develop in the bracket that secures the power steering gear to the bus frame. Cracks may also develop in the bus frame around the bolts that attach the steering gear bracket to the frame. If left unchecked, the cracks may propagate and result in a partial separation of the steering gear from the bus frame. This could cause a loss of steering control resulting in a vehicle crash. Blue Bird is conducting a voluntary safety recall to correct this defect. To address this issue, a new steering gear bracket assembly and frame reinforcement has been developed.

Prior to having recall performed, we request that this bracket be inspected for signs of cracks in the area where it is bolted to the frame and notify Blue Bird if any cracks are longer than 1 ½” or if multiple cracks are present. A picture of this bracket (with a crack) as installed on a bus is shown below.



**BLUE BIRD BODY COMPANY**

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



BLUE BIRD

Page 2

R13WA

Buses exhibiting cracks that are longer than 1 ½” should be removed from service and contact Blue Bird for interim repair instructions.

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

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.

Labor time to install the new designed steering gear bracket assembly and new frame reinforcement is 8.0 hours per bus.

**Parts required to perform Service Bulletin S13WA must be ordered through Blue Bird Recall Administration.** Parts are anticipated to be available on or about May 6, 2013.

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.

Sincerely,

Gerry Gibb  
On behalf of Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator  
Blue Bird Corporation



**R13WA**

March 20, 2013

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 2003-2007 model year Blue Bird produced Ultra LF non-school transit buses manufactured from March 14, 2003 to March 12, 2007.

On the subject buses, cracks may develop in the bracket that secures the power steering gear to the bus frame. Cracks may also develop in the bus frame around the bolts that attach the steering gear bracket to the frame. If left unchecked, the cracks may propagate and result in a partial separation of the steering gear from the bus frame. This could cause a loss of steering control resulting in a vehicle crash. Blue Bird is conducting a voluntary safety recall to correct this defect. To address this issue, a new steering gear bracket assembly and frame reinforcement has been developed.

Prior to having recall performed, we request that this bracket be inspected for signs of cracks in the area where it is bolted to the frame and notify Blue Bird if any cracks are longer than 1 ½” or if multiple cracks are present. A picture of this bracket (with a crack) as installed on a bus is shown below.

Buses exhibiting cracks that are longer than 1 ½” should be removed from service and contact Blue Bird for interim repair instructions.



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Page 2

R13WA

You may perform the recall yourself or have the work done by a qualified repair facility convenient to you. You may also contact the Blue Bird dealer in your area for assistance. A qualified technician should perform this recall.

**To receive replacement parts to correct this defect, verify that the address shown at the top of the yellow parts request sheet is a valid UPS shipping address and return to Blue Bird in the pink self-addressed postage paid envelope.** Once replacement parts are available (on or about May 6, 2013) they will be shipped “No Charge” via UPS or common carrier to the address shown at top of yellow parts request sheet. The original removed parts should be discarded.

When recall R13WA has been completed, reimbursement for labor may be obtained by completing the enclosed **pink** request for reimbursement sheet provided and returning it to Blue Bird in the enclosed **pink** postage prepaid envelope. If the repair is performed by other than the owner or a Blue Bird dealer, attach a copy of the paid work order/invoice to the reply sheet. Labor time to install the new design steering gear bracket assembly and new frame reinforcement is 8.0 hours per bus.

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 attach 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.

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** reply sheet and return to Blue Bird in the enclosed pink postage prepaid envelope.

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:



Page 3

R13WA

**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,

Gerry Gibb  
On behalf of Bill Coleman  
Corporate Recall Administrator