

**Division Of State Patrol
Informational Memorandum**

8-99-1

**Manual Tab 4
School Bus Inspection Manual**

TOPIC: Service Door Control Rod on Blue Bird School Buses

Background: During inspections of Blue Bird school buses it has been discovered that the service door control rod and bracket fail the handrail catch space test. This criteria was developed by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration for the inspection of handrails for the potential of clothing being snagged as a child exited the school bus. The question has been raised whether this criteria does in fact apply to the service door control rod.

Decision: In speaking with NHTSA representatives, who were active in the handrail catch space investigation, they have indicated the handrail catch space criteria was not intended for the service door control rod. Further they indicated there has been no reports of this area creating a hazard when a child is exiting the school bus. In speaking directly with Blue Bird representatives, in research and development, they indicated they have addressed this issue by developing a replacement bracket. This bracket, available for purchase, is designed to eliminate any potential for snagging clothing. While Blue Bird suggests purchasing this bracket rather than reversing the original bracket to reduce the snagging potential this is not a recall item. They indicated the original bracket, when reversed, will eliminate the potential for snagging but that it may fail due to improper use of the designed product.

After speaking with Blue Bird and NHTSA it is the opinion of the Division that during the inspections of school buses the handrail inspection process will not be applied to the door control rod.

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