



BLUE BIRD

January 8, 2026
Dealer Memo 26-01

To: Blue Bird Dealers
From: Sumanth Balesh, Director of Product Certification and Compliance
Subject: **Blue Bird Policy on School Bus Seating Alteration**

Blue Bird Body Company certifies all new buses sold in the United States and Canada are compliant with all applicable FMVSS and CMVSS regulations in effect at the time of build through rigorous engineering, testing and development. FMVSS Code of Federal Regulations, 49 CFR 571.222 and CMVSS 222 222 (School Bus Passenger Seating and Crash Protection) and 49 CFR § 571.210 and CMVSS 210 (Seat Belt Assembly Anchorages) apply to the final stage vehicle manufacturer and those who may alter a vehicle, including any vehicle repair businesses. Modifications that render a safety feature “inoperable” are prohibited by Section 30122 of the United States Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Because our certifications rely on new product and OEM assembly processes, we do not and are unable to sanction or certify compliance of any aftermarket installations or modifications made to the bus that changes the original seating configuration other than to designated convertible seats done per the Blue Bird and seat manufacturer instructions. Those who perform these modifications are solely responsible, and should conduct their own evaluations to ensure compliance with all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Regulations.

In summary, Blue Bird does not recommend or affirm the effectiveness of any alteration made after delivery to the seats installed in our buses or seating configurations. Furthermore, no Blue Bird-manufactured seat, Blue Bird-installed IMMI seat or C.E. White (CEW) non-convertible seat may be altered or replaced by a different type of seat, belts added, or relocated from its position as certified in the original floor plan.

Sumanth Balesh

Director of Product Certification & Compliance