



“Next Gen” Black Seat Belt

SERVICE NOTICE #18-0807



Issue with Possible Seat Belt Tripping Hazard

Recently it was brought to our attention that there was a possible issue with the black seat belt (Outside Seated Position) where when extended and latched the belt could “flop” into the aisle and cause a tripping hazard (See Figures #1 & #2).

Seat belt organization has been an issue since they were initially required in New York State on school buses built after July 1, 1987.

Upon researching the issue, it was found that a contributing factor to the issue was the shorter female end being attached at the outside of the seat and with the heavier buckle and the unit driven, it would slide off the seat. If the male end was extended and latched to the female the whole belt could end up in the aisle and create a tripping hazard (See Figure #3), which is an exaggerated case.

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We took this issue to Blue Bird and researched ourselves to find a resolution.

- The first thought was to add a retractor which would eliminate any seat belt slack all together (SEE FIGURE #4).
- We also looked at positioning of the female end where it mounts and trying to position so that it would lay further in on the seat so as not to fall into the aisle as easily (See Figure #5) but the crease is not tight and the belt still “flops” out.
- Blue Bird engineering has recommended that the female and male mounting be switched (See Figure #6) and the belt length be adjusted. We also found that mounting the male belt and running through the seat crease also helped keep the belt on the seat (See Figure #7).

We had also received a call from NYSDOT discussing the issue. Speaking with them, the concern was that during inspections they require the belts to be “presented for inspection.” Many operators buckle the belts which if they are left fully extended and laying on the seat may fall into the aisle when the unit is moved. If laying in the aisle during inspection the unit would be put out of service until the belts were arranged so as not to cause a tripping hazard.

It should be noted that the seat and design do meet FMVSS guidelines therefore there was no issue with construction of the seat.

PLEASE NOTE: When changing seat belt placement, make sure to torque the mounting bolts to 50 ft/lbs.

PLEASE NOTE

Black Retractable Seat Belt – Part #00062417

Retractable Seat Belt Option (Includes All Belts) – 30850-22

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FIGURE 1

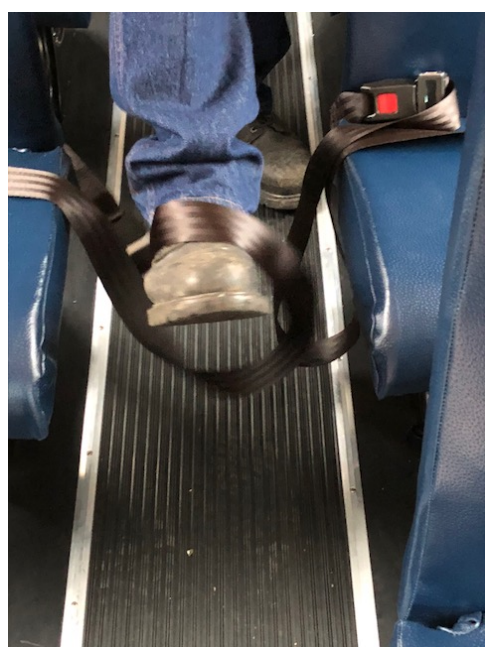


FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4

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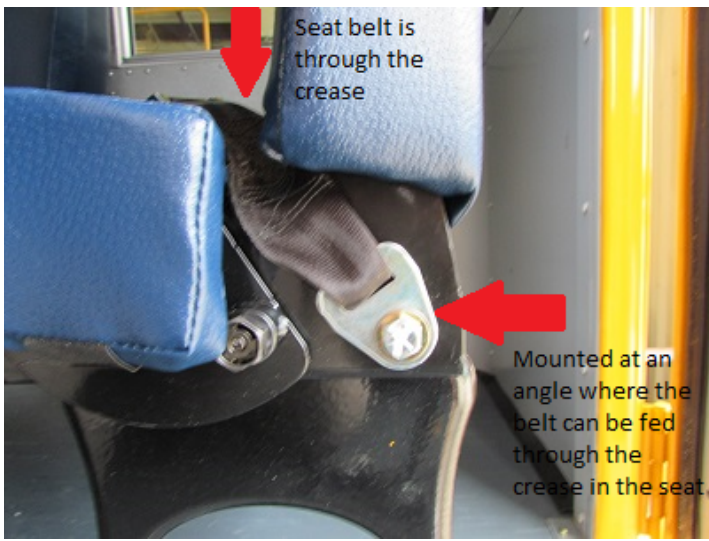


FIGURE 5



FIGURE 6

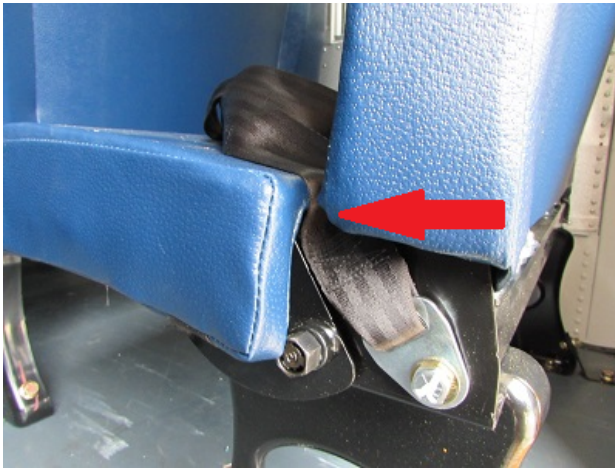


FIGURE 7

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