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Fax: 202-366-7882
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Below is a copy of an Email I sent to Mazda. I think the flooding problem on the RX-8 is serious and needs attention.

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Customer Relations Manager:

I purchased a new 2004 RX-8 in November 2003; it currently has 11,300 miles. This car has failed to start twice since I purchased it; flooded 3/29/04 and 12/29/04. Each time it has been repaired with new plugs and an update to the PCM. Neither time was the flooding a result of a short run; the car was at normal operating temperature when parked. There were 5 RX-8's at the dealership with the same problem, December 29, 2004. The new local Dealer, Home Mazda, Florence SC has been very responsive to the problems and concerns I have expressed.

Within a couple of months of buying the RX-8, the Dealer called me and warned me of the short run flooding problem. He said they were pulling in a lot of RX-8 because of flooding and to be sure to not turn the motor off until it was at normal operating temperature. My disappointment in this car is based on my experience with my 1988 RX-7; it has 173,000 miles (currently parked). My RX-7 had this same problem at about 140,000 miles, occurring 5 or 6 times. The previous Florence Dealership repaired the car twice and then stated the motor was worn out and needed replacement. I researched the problem on the internet and found an RX-7 club that new about the problem and had worked out a procedure for cranking when flooded. Pull the injector fuse, spin the motor at full throttle for 10 seconds, replace the fuse and start the engine. Usually two or three tries would start the engine. The biggest help was replacing the battery with the highest cold cranking amp battery that would fit in the car. I have driven the car another 30,000 miles and it was still running very good when I purchased the RX-8. With the exception of this problem my RX-7 was a great car and is the reason I purchased the RX-8.

I was very disappointed to find that Mazda had released the RX-8 to the market without correcting the known flooding problem from the previous models. The starting procedure for a flooded engine in the manual does not work. I do not think the fuel is being cut off at full throttle in the start mode (Smell of fuel increases). It took the service technician 45 minutes to start the car after installing new spark plugs. My wife has no confidence in this car and will not drive it. I do not have the confidence in this car that would allow me to keep it beyond the warranty period or allow me to purchase another Mazda. I enjoy driving the car, it is great fun, but it has to be dependable.

This is an issue Mazda needs to address for all RX-8 owners.

Florence SC.

VIN # JM1FB173340

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