



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

400 Seventh St., SW  
Washington, DC 20590

April 20, 2007

[REDACTED]  
Lafayette, CO [REDACTED]

NVS-216 aae  
Ref. # 10187935

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your e-mail dated March 15 addressed to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] office asked me to reply directly to you. We sympathize with you regarding the injuries you and your wife sustained in the crash and the considerable difficulties you have had since then.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you previously provided on December 24, 2006. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

As you may know, the seat belt and the frontal air bag systems are primarily designed for restraining and protecting the front-seat occupants in a frontal crash condition. In a rear-end crash condition, the seat back and the head restraints are designed to provide a cushioned barrier to provide some protection to the occupants. Of course, the amount of protection they provide will vary with the specific conditions in a crash, such as the impact speed. In your case, you estimated the impact speed at 35 m.p.h., which represents a collision of significant force. The angle of impact also plays a role. Neither the vehicle's seat belts nor the seat backs are as effective in an off-axis rear impact because the occupant may rotate and impact the side of the vehicle interior instead of the seat back cushion.



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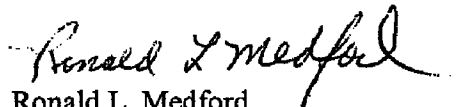
We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to driver and passenger front seat belt systems in MY 2005 Mazda MPV vehicles. An extensive search of our database indicated no other consumer complaints for MY 2004 through 2007 Mazda MPV vehicles for seat belt failures. Therefore, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

NHTSA cannot assist you in obtaining reimbursement for injuries you and your wife incurred from your service provider, Progressive Auto Insurance. This does not fall under our jurisdiction. We recommend you contact the Colorado Division of Insurance regarding your request:

Marcy Morrison, Commissioner  
Colorado Division of Insurance  
1560 Broadway, Suite 850  
Denver, CO 80202  
303-894-7499 or 1-800-894-7490  
Fax 303-894-7455 or e-mail [insurance@dora.state.co.us](mailto:insurance@dora.state.co.us)

We regret that we cannot be of more assistance. If you have additional questions about NHTSA's vehicle safety program, please contact Mr. Daniel Smith, NHTSA's Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 366-9700.

Sincerely,



Ronald L. Medford  
Senior Associate Administrator  
for Vehicle Safety

cc: The White House