



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 09-018
Prompted by: PE09-030
Date Opened: 12/07/2009
Investigator: Derek Rinehardt
Approver: Richard Boyd
Subject: Rear Suspension Lower Link Detachment

Date Closed: 10/15/2010
Reviewer: Jeff Quandt

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: ISUZU MANUFACTURING SERVICES OF AMERICA, HONDA (AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO.)
Products: MY 1998-2002 ISUZU RODEO AND HONDA PASSPORT
Population: 120,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: THE LEFT OR RIGHT REAR SUSPENSION LOWER LINK MAY EXPERIENCE A CORROSION FAILURE AND SEPARATE FROM THE FRAME AT ITS FORWARD MOUNTING POINT. THIS MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF VEHICLE CONTROL.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	106	15	115**
Crashes/Fires:	2	0	2
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	131	36	167

*Description of Other: Complaints of frame corrosion.

** Count indicates duplicate reports received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Engineering Analysis is closed. Recall 10V-436.

Summary:

On September 22, 2010, Isuzu Manufacturing Services of America, Inc (Isuzu) submitted a Defect Information Report (NHTSA Recall 10V-436) to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration affecting approximately 120,000 model year (MY) 1998-2002 Isuzu Rodeo and Honda Passport vehicles and MY 2002 Isuzu Axiom vehicles originally sold, or currently operated, in the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin. All vehicle owners will receive the recall notification. Vehicles 10 years of age or younger will be provided with a free remedy. For vehicles older than 10 years, Isuzu will offer a free remedy provided the vehicle is presented to an Isuzu service facility or a Honda dealer (as applicable) no later than twelve (12) months after the date of mailing of the notification letter to the owner. The report describes a condition where vehicles operated in states using certain road deicing materials may exhibit excessive corrosion which may result in the left or right rear suspension lower link bracket becoming detached from the frame. According to Isuzu a detached lower link may affect vehicle handling and potentially cause a crash.

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) analyzed complaint data and found that 114 of the 115 (99%) alleged complete lower link separations from the frame occurred in vehicles originally sold or operated in a state covered by the recall. Of these complaints 2 involved alleged crashes and 21 involved alleged loss of control incidents. The alleged crashes and loss of control incidents all occurred in vehicles operated in a state covered by the safety recall.

Isuzu's recall instructs dealers to inspect the rear suspension lower link bracket area to determine if corrosion is present. For vehicles in which corrosion has damaged the lower link bracket area and affected its connection to the vehicle frame, a reinforcement bracket will be installed. For vehicles with no visible signs of corrosion, dealers with

apply anti-corrosion material to reduce the likelihood of corrosion developing in the future.

Based on Isuzu's safety recall, this Engineering Analysis is closed. A copy of the recall may be assessed on NHTSA's website using the reference number above.