



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 09-045
Date Opened: 09/23/2009
Investigator: Derek Rinehardt
Approver: Richard Boyd
Subject: CLUTCH PEDAL BRACKET FAILURE
Date Closed: 08/19/2010
Reviewer: Steve Mchenry

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: MAZDA MOTOR CORP
Products: MODEL YEAR 2004 - 2006 MAZDA RX8 W/MANUAL TRANSMISSIONS
Population: 38,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: THE CLUTCH PEDAL BRACKET MAY EXPERIENCE A FAILURE AT ONE OF THE TWO MOUNTING POINTS. SOME CONSUMERS HAVE ALLEGED THE BRACKET FAILURE CAN CAUSE LOSS OF MOTIVE POWER AND VEHICLE DISABLEMENT DUE TO THE INABILITY TO ENGAGE A GEAR.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	120	100	218**
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	394	394

*Description of Other: Warranty Claims

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

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed.

Summary:

On September 23, 2009, the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened a Preliminary Evaluation to investigate allegations of the clutch pedal bracket failures in MY 2004 - 2006 Mazda RX8 vehicles.

In response to an information request letter sent by ODI, Mazda stated that the failure mechanism may be related to an improper fastener attachment sequence to the body. The improper sequence may create a distortion of the pedal bracket and create a stress amplitude during pedal usage that may go beyond the wear out limit of the bracket.

Mazda stated that the percentages of vehicles experiencing the defect is low at approximately 1% of the vehicle population projected to 10 years in service based on analysis of warranty claim data that best represented the alleged defect.

In terms of risk to motor vehicle safety, Mazda stated that the failure is progressive with warning manifested in noise and difficulty in shifting gears prior to complete failure of the bracket. Mazda also stated that when a bracket fracture occurs the clutch pedal may lean towards the brake pedal however gear shifting becomes impossible prior to any contact of the clutch pedal to the brake pedal.

ODI is not aware of any crashes associated with a clutch pedal bracket failure in the subject vehicles. ODI's analysis of warranty claim data provided by Mazda yielded failure rates of approximately 3% projected over 10 years in service.

ODI's analysis of Vehicle Owner Questionnaire (VOQ) data complaint indicates that approximately 5% of the VOQ complainants allege they were unable to get out of the roadway as a result of a clutch pedal bracket failure. None of these incidents occurred on a highway. Approximately 7% of the complainants alleged a contact condition after a clutch pedal bracket failure of the clutch pedal to the brake pedal. None of these complaints noted difficulty in getting the vehicle stopped.

Mazda has informed ODI that it will conducted an Owner Notification of an extended warranty coverage program increasing the clutch pedal assembly warranty to 8 years and limited at 100K miles for model years 2004 through 2009 RX8 vehicles.

A safety-related defect trend has not been identified at this time and further use of agency resources does not appear to be warranted. Accordingly, this investigation is closed. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist. The agency will continue to monitor this issue and will take further action if warranted by the circumstances.