U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 10-004
Prompted by: 10E-010
Date Opened: 04/27/2010 **Date Closed:** 09/27/2010
Investigator: Alexander Ansley
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Remy Alternator Fires

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: REMY POWER PRODUCTS, LLP
Products: Alternators produced 12/19/2009 through 2/22/2010
Population: 23,000

Problem Description: Certain alternators may cause heat damage or catch on fire if the regulator circuit was damaged by transient voltage during manufacturing, testing, or installation.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Close EQ

Summary:

On April 2, 2010, Remy Power Products, LLC (Remy) reported that certain alternators, produced between December 19, 2009, and February 22, 2010, contain an internal voltage regulator that can become damaged by transient voltage that may occur when the regulator and the alternator are built, tested, and installed. Should the regulator's circuit be damaged, thermal degradation of the circuit can occur, increasing the risk of a fire or heat damage even when the vehicle is off. NHTSA assigned recall number 10E-010 to this matter.

On April 14, 2010, the Recall Management Division (RMD) requested Remy provide its customer list of all recipients that purchased the defective alternators. Remy responded with an e-mail that contained insufficient contact information for those recipient, and accordingly mailed Remy and information request (IR) letter for the complete information on April 28, 2010. That same day, RMD mailed Daimler Trucks and Knopf Automotive, who were listed as recipients and for which RMD had additional contact information. Daimler Trucks responded that all defective alternators they received had been returned to Remy. RMD never received a response from Knopf Automotive. Previous EQ mailings have revealed that Knopf is a distributor that would not have an obligation to notify NHTSA of a safety defect or contact a recall campaign.

RMD received a more detailed customer list from Remy on June 3, 2010, listing 90 purchasers and over 20,000 alternators. RMD then issued IR letters to those companies that re-sold the equipment under another brand/ trademark, mostly automotive retail chains. On July 21, 2010, RMD mailed IR letters to Associate Jobbers Warehouse, AutoZone Parts, PASCO, General Parts, O'Reilly Automotive, and Bosch Canada.

Only General Parts chose to recall the alternators (10E-036) they sold under their trademark, Proven Value. The others, Associate Jobbers Warehouse, AutoZone, and O'Reilly, responded that they supplied Remy with customer lists of purchasers. Bosch Canada sold their inventory only in Canada. PASCO responded that they do not actually re-label their purchased alternators.

Our regulatory authority does not extend to products sold abroad or to distributors. Additionally, We do not believe our regulations are sufficiently decisive as to whether re-branders of equipment (other than tires) must take responsibility for a defective product they sell under that brand name, to include conducting a recall campaign. Accordingly, we decline at this time to pursue further those re-branders.

This EQ is closed.

IR responses can be found in the EQ repository.
A working spreadsheet of response summaries can be found on the next page.

EQ10-004 Remy

IR Letter Mailed Certified: 4/28/2010
Distributor IR letters mailed: 7/21/2010

OEM	Street	City	State	Zip	Label	Qty	Status	573 #
Remy, Inc.						-	Tom Masiati called on 5/5. Putting together customer list. List emailed to us on 5/21. I requested ship-to dates and quantities also on 5/23. Customer list received on 6/3.	-
Daimler Trucks						-	Dave emailed on 5/12. All returned to Remy prior to retail. No 573 needed.	-
Knopf Automotive						100	Remailed on 5/24 as 1st letter was lost by post office. Previous EQs list Knopf as a distributor. No further action taken.	-
Additional Customers:								
Associtate Jobbers Warehouse	1309 Industrial Blvd	Boaz	AL	35957	AJW	108	Faxed on 7/30. Returned parts back to Remy and provided Remy with customer list. Not filing 573.	-
AutoZone Parts, Inc.	123 South Front Street	Memphis	TN	38103	Duralast / Duralast Gold	3,539	Sheryl Consente called and left vmx on 8/9. I called and left vmx on 8/10. Spoke with Sheryl on 8/10. She is getting more information. Sheryl called on 8/17. Autozone put up posters and gave what cust info they had to Remy. Not filing 573. Received response on 8/23.	-
Pasco	1121 South Salisbury Blvd	Salisbury	MD	21801	PASCO	8	Emailed me on 7/27. Does not re-label. Sending me letter. Received on 7/27. Not filing 573.	-
General Parts, Inc.	2635 East Millbrook Rd	Raleigh	NC	27604	Proven Value	778	Filed 573 via email on 8/6	**10E-036**
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	233 S. Patterson	Springfield	MO	65802	Ultima / Master Pro Platinum	7,376	Faxed on 7/30. Returned parts back to Remy and provided Remy with customer list. Not filing 573.	-
Bosch Canada	6955 Creditview Road	Mississaug	Ontario	L5N 1R1	Bosch	98	Emailed me on 8/12. Only sold to Canadian customers. No 573 needed.	-