U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 14-007
Prompted by:
Date Opened: 06/27/2014 **Date Closed:** 08/25/2014
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: TPMS Non-Compliance to FMVSS 138

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: BF1 Systems Limited
Products: TPMS ECU
Population: 31,820

Problem Description: Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) electronic control unit (ECU) manufactured July 1, 2007 through January 31, 2014 may not illuminate the Malfunction Indicator Light (MIL) when a vehicle?s ignition is deactivated and then reactivated. This equipment does not comply with the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 138 "Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems."

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is closed.

Summary:

The closing report is attached.

EQ 14-007: Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) Non-Conformance to FMVSS 138

Closing Report

August 25, 2014

BACKGROUND

On November 4, 2013, Aston Martin Lagonda Limited (Aston Martin) notified the NHTSA that it decided certain Model Year (MY) 2010-2013 DB9 Coupe, DB9 Volante, DBS Coupe, DBS Volante, V8 Vantage Coupe, V8 Vantage Roadster, V8 Vantage S Coupe, V8 Vantage S Roadster, and Rapide; MY 2011-2012 Virage Coupe and Virage Volante; and, MY 2013 Rapide S and Vanquish Coupe vehicles fail to comply to the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 138, "Tire Pressure Monitoring Systems." The TPMS malfunction indicator may not illuminate to signal the continued presence of a malfunction after the vehicle ignition is de-activated and then reactivated after a period of five minutes. Aston Martin petitioned the agency for a determination that this noncompliance is not consequential to motor vehicle safety, and that petition is pending with the agency. The potential safety recall matter was assigned recall number 13V-546.

On February 19, 2014, McLaren Automotive, Inc. (McLaren) notified the NHTSA that it decided the same TPMS noncompliance with FMVSS No. 138 exists in certain MY 2012-2015 MP4-12C Spider and Coupe vehicles. The TPMS malfunction indicator may not illuminate to signal the continued presence of a malfunction after the vehicle ignition is de-activated and then reactivated after a period of five minutes. McLaren petitioned the agency for a determination that this noncompliance is not consequential to motor vehicle safety, and that petition is pending with the agency. This potential safety recall matter was assigned recall number 14V-061.

On March 5, 2014, Maserati North America, Inc. (Maserati) notified the NHTSA that it decided the same TPMS noncompliance with FMVSS No. 138 exists in certain MY 2011-2013 Maserati Quattroporte, and MY 2011-2014 Granturismo and Granturismo Convertible vehicles. The TPMS malfunction indicator may not illuminate to signal the continued presence of a malfunction after the vehicle ignition is de-activated and then reactivated after a period of five minutes. Maserati petitioned the agency for a determination that this noncompliance is not consequential to motor vehicle safety, and that petition is pending with the agency. This potential safety recall matter was assigned recall number 14V-105.

On May 23, 2014 Automobili Lamborghini America, LLC (Lamborghini) notified the NHTSA that it decided the same TPMS noncompliance with FMVSS No. 138 exists in certain MY 2012-2014 Aventador vehicles manufactured July 15, 2011, through May 13, 2014; MY 2008-2010 Murcielago vehicles manufactured April 3, 2007, through April 29, 2010; and, MY 2008-2014 Gallardo vehicles manufactured June 14, 2007, through November 20, 2013. The TPMS malfunction indicator may not illuminate to signal the continued presence of a malfunction after the vehicle ignition is de-activated and then reactivated after a period of five minutes. Lamborghini petitioned the agency for a determination that this noncompliance is not consequential to motor vehicle safety, and that petition is pending with the agency. This potential safety recall matter was assigned recall number 14V-277.

On June 27, 2014, the Recall Management Division (RMD) opened this Equipment Query (EQ) Investigation in order to write the companies that purchased the TPMS malfunction indicators, to notify

them of the potential for the indicators to induce a noncompliance in vehicles they manufactured, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.

BF1 provided a customer list identifying 7 vehicle manufacturers that may have incorporated the subject TPMS into their vehicles. On June 30, 2014, an IR letter was sent to the three (3) manufacturers who had not filed a noncompliance decision and the associated notification, or a Part 573 Report.

BF1 OEM RESPONSE

In response to the IR letter, Ferrari North America Inc. (Ferrari) and Tesla Motors, Inc. (Tesla) filed noncompliance reports, (14V-432 and 14V-465, respectively), and indicated they would conduct a recall of their vehicles. Additionally, Ferrari and Tesla petitioned the agency for a determination that this noncompliance is not consequential to motor vehicle safety, and those petitions are pending with the agency.

In response to the IR letter, Koenigsegg Automotive AB (Koenigsegg) filed a noncompliance report, (14V-437), and indicated they would conduct a recall of their vehicles. Koenigsegg did not petition the agency for a determination that this noncompliance is not consequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, it is expected a safety recall will be conducted.

RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION ACTION

All vehicle manufacturers who purchased the subject TPMS systems have been identified, have filed recall reports, and are conducting recalls. Accordingly, this equipment query investigation is closed. Copies of documents associated with this investigation, including responses to IR letters, can be found in this Equipment Query's document repository by clicking the "Associated Documents" button.