U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 14-011
Prompted by:
Date Opened: 08/25/2014 **Date Closed:** 04/17/2015
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: CNG Fuel Tank Valve and Mounting Failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Agility Fuel Systems
Products: CNG Fuel Tank
Population: 1,871

Problem Description: The shutoff/isolation valve can get stuck in the closed position preventing fuel from flowing from the storage tank. The mounting system may allow the fuel tank to rotate or move.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This EQ investigation is closed

Summary:

The closing report is attached.

EQ 14-011: CNG Fuel Tank Valve and Mounting Failure
Closing Report

In a Part 573 Safety Recall Report dated May 16, 2014, and amended on June 10, 2014, Agility Fuel Systems (Agility) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain CNG Fuel Tank Systems shutoff/isolation valves manufactured from September 1, 2010, through January 31, 2013. The shutoff/isolation valve can get stuck in the closed position, which would prevent fuel from flowing from the fuel storage tank. The valve can stick in the closed position while being opened from the closed position when the fuel pressure in the downstream system is at a pressure below the fuel storage tank pressure. From this failed condition, the vehicle engine will be starved of fuel and will not operate, increasing the risk of a vehicle crash. This matter was assigned recall number 14E-025.

In a letter dated May 16, 2014 and amended on June 10, 2014, Agility notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in certain CNG Rail Mount Fuel Systems mounting system manufactured from September 1, 2010, through January 31, 2013. The affected mounting system may allow the fuel tank to rotate or move within the mounting system, which may cause damage to the fuel line tubing connected to the tank, or cause damage to the tank. If the tank rotates within the mounting system, it can rotate until the fuel lines can be either compromised to the point of failure or can be pinched to the point that fuel will not flow freely from the tank. Compromised fuel lines may leak or fail, resulting in a gas leak or interruption of fuel flow to the engine, increasing the risk of a vehicle crash. This matter was assigned recall number 14E-026.

In their 573 Defect Notification Reports, Agility provided purchaser lists identifying the manufacturers that may have incorporated these CNG Fuel Tank Systems shutoff/isolation valves and CNG Rail Mount Fuel Systems mounting systems into their vehicles. The purchasers of the CNG Fuel Tank Systems shutoff/isolation valves were the same manufacturers that purchased the CNG Rail Mount Fuel Systems mounting systems.

On August 25, 2014, the Recall Management Division (RMD) opened this Equipment Query Investigation with the intention to write to the manufacturers that purchased Agility's equipment and inform them of Agility's defect decision to increase awareness, and to prompt additional safety recalls as necessary and appropriate.

Since that time RMD has closely monitored for reports of failures or fires, and for the submission of 573 Defect Notification Reports. There have not been any new reports of failures or fires by any of the manufacturers that incorporated these CNG Fuel Tank Systems shutoff/isolation valves and CNG Rail Mount Fuel Systems mounting systems into their vehicles, since the Agility recalls were filed on May 16, 2014. In view of this information, we have decided that at this time our limited resources would be better used on competing investigation demands and opportunities. Accordingly, this equipment query investigation is closed. This decision does not prevent the agency from re-opening this investigation or initiating another should information change or our resources broaden.