



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Memorandum

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

This memo was superseded by the above memo dated 11/3/2014.

Subject: MY 2014 Ford Ranger DAB Inflator

Date: Oct 31, 2014

From: Scott Yon
Office of Defects Investigation

~~D-SCOTT~~
YON

Digitally signed by D-SCOTT-YON
DN: cn=D-SCOTT-YON, o=U.S. Department
of Transportation, ou=DOT-Headquarters,
ou=NHTSAHQ, cn=D-SCOTT-YON
Date: 2014.11.03 09:20:44-0400

Reply to
Attn of:

To: PE14-016 Investigative File

American Honda Manufacturing (Honda) contacted ODI on September 11, 2014 regarding a July 2014 inflator rupture incident occurring in Malaysia. During a crash-related (commanded) deployment, the driver air bag (DAB) inflator on a model year (MY) 2003 Honda City ruptured. Honda advised that neither the City model, nor any substantially similar Honda models, have been sold in the U.S. Honda further advised that the inflator used in the City model, a single-stage DAB inflator, known as an SDI inflator and manufactured by Takata, is not used in any other Honda models sold in the U.S.

ODI discussed the Malaysia incident with Takata during the latter half of September 2014. Takata advised that the SDI involved in the Malaysia incident was manufactured in the same production facility and during the same time frame as inflators involved in the scope of NHTSA investigation Preliminary Evaluation (PE) 14-016. Takata advised that it had not produced the SDI inflator involved in the Malaysia incident for use in U.S. vehicles, however it had produced a similar, but slightly different SDI inflator for the MY 2004 Ford Ranger DAB. Takata advised that it was unaware of any inflator ruptures involving the Ranger DAB SDI inflator, and acknowledged that it had communicated with Ford regarding this matter.

ODI discussed the issue with Ford in late September and October 2014. Ford also confirmed it was unaware of any DAB inflator ruptures in the MY 2004 Ranger, and further advised that approximately 20,000 Rangers were in service in the U.S. Ford noted that the MY 2004 Ranger are currently being recalled under NHTSA Recall No. 14V343 for replacement of the passenger's side air bag inflator. In subsequent discussions with Ford and Takata, all parties agreed that it would be advantageous to also replace the DAB SDI inflator during 14V343, and for the removed SDI inflator to be returned to Takata for additional testing and evaluation conducted in connection with PE14-016. ODI requested Ford and Takata proceed on an expedited basis.