U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 14-002
Prompted by: 13E-050
Date Opened: 01/16/2014
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Battery Equalizers/Converters May Ignite

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Sure Power, Inc.

Products: Battery Equalizers and DC-DC Converters

Population: 10,989 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Certain model battery equalizers and DC-DC converters are capable of conducting electricity after being exposed to heat, increasing the risk of a fire.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Equipment Query (EQ) is opened.

Summary:

On September 10, 2013, Sure Power Inc. (Sure Power) notified the NHTSA that it decided a defect exists in battery equalizers and DC-DC converters with part numbers: 12025C00, 12025C00-B, 12025E00, 12025E00-B, 12030C20HR, 12030C20HR-B, 12040C00, 12040C00-B, 12040E00, 12040E00-B, 52204, 52206, 52206RB, 52208, 52208P, 52208RB, 52210, 52210-20430K, 52210P, 52210RB, 52210RB-B, 52210RB-T, 52304, 52304P, 52306, 52306RB, 52308, 12040C01. These battery equalizers and DC-DC converters were manufactured between January 2000 and August 18, 2013, and contain a particular potting compound. The potting compound was used for insulation in the subject products and was found to be capable of conducting electricity after being exposed to heat. Once electrically conductive, the material is capable of melting and burning, increasing the risk of a fire. This matter was assigned recall number 13E-050.

Sure Power has supplied NHTSA with a purchaser list identifying the bus manufacturers that may have incorporated these battery equalizers and DC-DC converters into their buses. However a Part 573 Report has not been filed by all of these potentially affected manufacturers at this time.

The purpose of this EQ investigation is to write to the companies that purchased the Sure Power battery equalizers and DC-DC converters, notify them of this defect, and ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.