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
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: 323 (Estimated)

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 opened.

Summary:

In a letter 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 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 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.

Agility provided NHTSA with a purchaser list 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. However, at this time, a Part 573 Report has not been filed by all of these potentially affected manufacturers.

The purpose of this EQ investigation is to write to the companies that purchased Agility's CNG Fuel Tank Systems shutoff/isolation valves and CNG Rail Mount Fuel Systems mounting systems, notify them of this defect and ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.