



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 18-006
Date Opened: 05/21/2018
Investigator: Frederick Lamance **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Front Subframe Corrosion Failure

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Mazda Motor Corp.
Products: 2009-2010 Mazda6
Population: 84,513 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Complaints allege front subframe corrosion has caused failures of the right-side steering rack mounting bolt or lower control arm attachment, resulting in compromised vehicle handling and steering control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	20	TBD	20
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	5	TBD	5

*Description of Other: Complaints alleging subframe corrosion detected prior to failure.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

ODI has received 20 complaints (VOQs) alleging front subframe corrosion failures resulting in incidents of compromised vehicle handling or control while driving in the subject vehicles, including 19 VOQs for model year (MY) 2009 Mazda6 vehicles and 1 VOQ for a MY 2010 Mazda6 vehicle. VOQ narratives and supporting information provided by consumers indicate that severe corrosion in the right-rear corner of the subframe may result in failure of the right steering rack mounting bolt (7) or detachment of suspension components (e.g., lower control arm mount) from the subframe (5). Thirteen (13) of the VOQs allege experiencing failures while driving that resulted in vehicle handling or control concerns. The complaint trend is increasing, with 16 received in the last 12 months. In addition, ODI has received 5 VOQs reporting severe corrosion of the subframe detected prior to failure (e.g., during routine oil change service), including 3 in the last 12 months.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect.

The following VOQ numbers are associated with this opening resume:

VOQs reporting failures ("Complaints"):

11091913, 11090944, 11083781, 11083475, 11081783, 11080014, 11078734, 11074634, 11048014, 11034064,
11033821, 11025276, 11022556, 11019306, 11018787, 11006550, 10983484, 10956316, 10899584, 10846298

VOQs reporting severe corrosion prior to failure ("Other"):
11084411, 11074904, 11074681, 10957862, 10894180