U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: EQ 21-001
Prompted by: 19V-458, 19V-627, 20V-039, 21V-139
Date Opened: 04/07/2021 **Date Closed:** 12/01/2021
Investigator: Choon Lee
Approver: Alexander Ansley
Subject: Joyson Passenger Side Air Bag Cushion

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Key Safety Systems, Inc. - (DBA Joyson)
Products: Joyson Passenger Side Air Bags
Population: 256,181

Problem Description: Replacement air bag cushions may have been folded incorrectly, which could prevent proper deployment of the air bag.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Close Equipment Query

Summary:

In a Part 573 Report dated July 14, 2019, Mercedes Benz USA, LLC. (MBUSA) notified NHTSA of a safety-related defect in certain 2020 GLE350 4Matic and GLE450 4Matic vehicles. This filing was assigned Recall No. 19V-458. MBUSA stated that these vehicles may have received Joyson Safety Systems (Joyson) passenger air bag assemblies that may cause a delayed or incomplete deployment of the air bag during a crash.

On August 28, 2019, Toyota Motor Engineering and Manufacturing (Toyota) notified NHTSA of a safety-related defect in certain 2003-2008 Corolla, 2005-2008 Corolla Matrix, and 2005-2008 Pontiac Vibe vehicles. This filing was assigned Recall No. 19V-627. Toyota stated that these vehicles may have received replacement Joyson Safety Systems (Joyson) air bag assemblies under a previous recall, and the replacement air bags may not unfold as designed during a crash.

On January 23, 2020, General Motors, LLC (GM) notified NHTSA of a defect in certain 2003-2004 Pontiac Vibe vehicles. The GM filing was assigned Recall No. 20V-039. On March 4, 2021, Nissan North America, Inc. (Nissan) notified NHTSA of a defect in certain 2006-2008 Infiniti FX35 and FX45 vehicles. Nissan's filing was assigned Recall No. 21V-139. In both GM's and Nissan's recalls, affected vehicles were repaired under previous recalls, and the replacement air bags may not unfold as designed during a crash.

The purpose of this EQ was to write to Joyson and other companies that might have purchased this equipment from Joyson, notify them of this defect in any vehicles they manufactured, and to ensure thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.

On April 8, 2021, NHTSA's Recall Management Division (RMD) notified Joyson of the EQ and issued an Information Request (IR) letter to Joyson. Responses from Joyson, dated between April 19, 2021 to July 21, 2021, are summarized as follows:

Related to MBUSA 19V-458, MBUSA "inadvertently installed 11 prototype airbag modules into vehicles for the stream of commerce. JSS has no knowledge of any other vehicles being affected other than those identified by Mercedes Benz." Joyson noted that it will not file a Part 573 Recall Report.

Related to Toyota 19V-627 and GM 20V-039, Joyson noted the airbags were sold to Toyota, which utilized them on a single vehicle platform, sold as both the Toyota Matrix and Pontiac Vibe. In addition, the reason for GM's recall was due to certain GM dealerships installing the incorrect version of the replacement airbag. Joyson stated they have "no reason to believe that any other manufacturer is affected by the circumstances underlaying Recall 20V-039." Joyson also stated no other vehicles utilized the subject airbags. Furthermore, Joyson "has not identified any assemblies built in the same facility with angle variations that underwent the same development testing" as described in Toyota's Part

573 Recall Report. Joyson noted that it will not file a Part 573 Recall Report.

Related to Nissan 21V-139, Joyson stated "The combination of components that comprise the airbag modules which are the subject of Recall 21V-139 was supplied only to Nissan for the FX-35 and FX-45 vehicles." Joyson noted that it will not file a Part 573 Recall Report.

NHTSA has reviewed the responses from Joyson and has concluded that no additional safety recalls from other manufacturers are required at this time. Accordingly, this Equipment Query is now closed. However, RMD will continue to monitor reports and other data for like conditions and may re-open this query or initiate a new query, as appropriate.