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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

By Fax and Regular Mail

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January 12, 2004

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W. – NSA 01 – Room 5321
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Maserati North America, Inc. ("MNA") has determined that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in an as-yet undetermined portion and number of Model Year 2002-2004 Maserati Coupes and Spyders. MNA is providing this notification to your office in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 573.

MNA believes that the affected vehicles have the potential to experience leakage of fuel into the engine compartment as a result of defective fuel lines.

The information – to the extent currently available to MNA – that is required by your regulation follows:

1. *Manufacturer's Name and Address.*

Maserati North America, Inc.
250 Sylvan Avenue
Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632

2. *Vehicles Involved in this Notification.*

The affected vehicles consist of Model Year 2002-2004 Maserati Coupes and Maserati Spyders.

3. *Total Number of Vehicles.*

The total population of Model Year 2002-2004 Maserati Coupes and Spyders is 1,982.



4. *Approximate Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect.*

At this time, because MNA has been unable to define precisely the population of Model Year 2002-2004 Maserati Coupes and Spyders that may be subject to the defect, MNA has decided to include the entire population.

5. *Description of the Defect.*

The defect involves the potential for leakage from fuel lines in the engine compartment. Based on its current analysis, MNA believes that the lines may disconnect under pressure.

6. *Chronology of Events Leading to this Defect Determination.*

In mid-November 2003, MNA received information about a fuel-fed engine-compartment fire that occurred in New York on a Model Year 2002 Maserati Coupe. Subsequent to investigating this incident MNA began to investigate whether another fire which occurred in September, 2003 on a Model Year 2003 Maserati Coupe in Canada might be related. Both of these fires were confined to the engine compartments of the vehicles and did not result in injuries to the vehicle occupants. Although MNA had received five other reports of fuel leaks in the engine compartment, its analyses and investigations had not suggested that those leaks were attributable to a manufacturing or design defect. In fact, the company suspected that some or all of those incidents might have been the result of improper servicing or even sabotage.

Upon receipt of the information about the two fires, MNA personnel inspected a number of Maserati Coupes and Spyders and noted that, in some cars, the fuel lines become disconnected under pressure. Accordingly, MNA decided to file this report.

7. *Description of Proposed Remedy.*

The fuel lines will be replaced with lines and attachments that are not subject to the defective condition, i.e., the same type of fuel lines is used on European specification Maserati Coupe and Spyders, and these vehicles have not been subject to this condition. The operation will be performed free of charge to the vehicle owner, and will require approximately 2.5 hours to complete. All customers and dealers will receive notification of the remedy campaign. MNA anticipates that an adequate inventory of replacement parts will be available in approximately 30 days.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. §§ 573.6(c)(8), 573.13(c), and 577.11, the owner notification letter will inform owners that they may be eligible to receive reimbursement for the cost of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of a problem associated with this defect. Specifically, as required by 49 C.F.R. § 577.11(d), the notification letter will inform owners that they may be entitled to reimbursement for any out-of-pocket costs that they incurred for the repair or replacement of the affected fuel lines during the following period: from any time before the date of this notification to NHTSA pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 573.6, to up to ten days after the date on which the last of the owner notifications pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 577 is mailed.

In addition, owners will be instructed to submit to "Maserati North America, Inc., 250 Sylvan Avenue, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey Attn: Service Department" documentation that provides (a) the name and address of the claimant; (b) identification of their vehicle's make, model, model year, and vehicle identification number; (c) identification of the recall by reference to NHTSA's recall number or



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the recall number assigned by Maserati; (d) identification of the owner or purchaser of the vehicle at the time that the pre-notification remedy was obtained; (e) a receipt, which may be an original or copy, for the pre-notification remedy, identifying the equipment replaced; and (f), if the pre-notification remedy was obtained at a time when the vehicle was covered under the original warranty program, documentation indicating that the manufacturer's dealer or authorized facility either refused to remedy the problem addressed by the recall under the warranty or that the warranty repair did not correct the problem addressed by the recall.

Under the reimbursement plan, reimbursement shall not be provided for repairs made within the period during which the original warranty would have provided for a free repair of the problem addressed by this recall, unless (i) a franchised dealer or authorized representative of Maserati denied warranty coverage or (ii) the repair made under the warranty did not remedy the problem. Reimbursement also will not be provided if the pre-notification remedy was not of the same type as the recall remedy provided herein, did not address the defect that led to this recall, or was not reasonably necessary to correct the defect.

8. *Campaign Schedule and Draft Notices.*

MNA expects to begin customer notification within 30 days. MNA will submit customer notifications to NHTSA for review under separate cover. MNA has assigned this campaign an internal campaign number: 104.

MNA also expects to send letters to all Authorized Maserati Dealers, as well as a draft of the technical instructions.

9. *Representative Copies of Notifications that Relate to the Defect and Have Been Sent to More than One Manufacturer, Distributor, Dealer, or Purchaser.*

There are no notices, bulletins, or other communications that relate directly to the defect and have been sent by MNA to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser.

* * *

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at (201) 816-2706.

Sincerely,



Enzo Francesconi

Vice President, Technical Services

Maserati North America, Inc.

VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECT INITIAL INFORMATION REPORT
RECALL CAMPAIGN NO. 104
Maserati Spyder and Coupe
"Fuel Delivery Lines"

MASERATI NORTH AMERICA, INC.
250 SYLVAN AVENUE
ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632
January, 2004

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Date Submitted:	January, 2004	Date Received:	January, 2004
Campaign Number:	104	Campaign Date:	January, 2004
Manufacturer:	Maserati S.p.A.		
Model:	Spyder Coupe		
Supplier:	T. Erre srl Via Fratelli Montanari Ravarino (Modena) Italy 89 - 41017		
Model Year:	Spyder and Coupe	2002 through 2004	
Number of Affected Vehicles:	Total Affected U.S. Vehicles = 1982		
Inclusive Manufacturing Dates:	Spyder / Coupe	From: September 2001 Through: November 2003	
Other Vehicle Identification:	Spyder / Coupe	Assembly Numbers from 6605 to 13298. VIN's from ZAMBC38A320005335 to ZAMBB18A340012117	

Description of Defect:

As a result of potential deterioration of the rubber section of the fuel hoses, the hoses may become soft and could possibly disconnect from the metal fittings and leak fuel. If the hoses leak fuel, a fire could develop in the engine compartment. If this condition was to exist while the customer was driving, it could pose a potential safety risk to the driver as well as other vehicles and potentially result in damage to the vehicle or property and a crash without warning.

Chronology of events which led to determination of a safety defect:

Since 2002 there have been 6 instances of leaking fuel hoses and 2 included a fire in the engine compartment.

None of these involved any personal or property damage, so the Maserati factory informed Maserati North America, Inc. that, as a result of these conditions, a voluntary recall is being issued to avoid the possibility of further fuel leaks.

Measures to be taken to repair the vehicle:

The remedy consists of replacing the two existing black metal and rubber fuel lines with new grey nylon fuel lines.

The new lines can be identified by the grey color and are of one piece construction from the fuel tank to the engine compartment.

This operation will be performed free of charge to the vehicle owner, and will require up to approximately 2.5 hours to complete.

Estimated initiation of corrective action:

January, 2004