



Mr. Kenneth N Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

February 16, 2004

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Re.: Submission of Part 573 report for 2004 model year Mazda RX-8 vehicles

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports," Mazda North American Operations (MNAO), on behalf of Mazda Motor Corporation of Hiroshima, Japan (Mazda), submits the following information concerning a safety-related recall action that it is initiating.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(1):

Mazda Motor Corporation with Designated Agent:

David G. Robertson
Manager,
Environmental and Safety Engineering
Mazda North American Operations
1500 Enterprise Drive, Allen Park
Michigan 48101-2053

Sec. 573.6 (c)(2):

Some 2004 model year Mazda RX-8 vehicles built between April 10, 2003 through January 28, 2004 with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) range between JM1 FE17** 40 100053 and JM1 FE17** 40 131583.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(3):

Approximately 29,300 vehicles

Sec. 573.6 (c)(4):

Unknown.

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Sec. 573.6 (c)(5):

Certain 2004 RX-8 vehicles were produced with improperly wired front passenger-side airbags. The result of this problem is that the airbag will not provide adequate protection when the vehicle is involved frontal crash.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(6):

Mazda first became aware of this condition as the result of an NCAP test on January 12, 2004. As a result of our investigation, Mazda believes that a possible cause of the poor performance of the front passenger-side airbags in the vehicle tested for NCAP might have been improper wiring.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(7):

Not Applicable

Sec. 573.6 (c)(8):

Owners of record will be notified of the defect by first class mail in February 2004 and be instructed to bring their vehicle to Mazda dealer. Repair will be performed at no cost to the vehicle owner.

A copy of the reimbursement plan to be sent to owners and dealers as an attachment to the owner notification letter is enclosed. With respect to reimbursement, customers will be reimbursed based on the submission of a receipt indicating the amount paid by the customer to remedy this defect.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(9) & (10):

A copy of the notification letter to be sent to owners and dealers is enclosed.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(11):

Mazda has assigned recall number 1604B-b to this action.

Sincerely yours,
Mazda North American Operations



David G. Robertson
Manager,
Environmental & Safety Engineering



February 2004

2004 RX-8 Front Passenger-Side Airbag Recall 1604B-b

Dear Mazda Owner:

This notice is being sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Mazda Motor Corporation has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in 2004 RX-8 vehicles produced from April 10, 2003 through January 28, 2004.

If you are a recipient of this notice, your vehicle is included in this campaign.

What is the problem?

Certain 2004 RX-8 vehicles were produced with improperly wired front passenger-side airbags. The result of this problem is that the airbag will not provide adequate protection in the event of a crash.

What will Mazda do?

Your Mazda dealer will install a new wiring harness in the front passenger-side airbag system free of charge. The repair may take approximately 30 minutes to complete depending on the service workload at your Mazda dealership. As a reminder, your Mazda Driver's Assurance Plan provides alternate transportation any time an owner's vehicle is at an authorized Mazda dealership for a warranty repair. Ask your dealer for details about the Mazda Rental Car Reimbursement Program.

What should you do?

Mazda is concerned about your safety, and we encourage you to make an appointment with any authorized Mazda dealer to have the passenger-side airbag repaired as soon as possible. You do not need to bring this notice to the dealer, but it may assist in the check-in process.

What if you have already paid for a repair on the front passenger-side airbag?

If you have already paid for the replacement of an improperly wired front passenger-side airbag, you may be eligible for reimbursement of reasonable repair expenses based on Mazda's repair standards. Please complete the enclosed "Reimbursement Application Form," include the necessary documentation, and mail it to us in the pre-addressed envelope provided, allowing 6-8 weeks for processing.

Where is the closest Mazda dealer?

To locate your nearest Mazda dealer, visit our web site and try our "Locate a Dealer" feature at www.MazdaUSA.com or consult your local yellow pages.

Moved or no longer own this vehicle?

If you have moved or no longer own your Mazda vehicle, please complete the enclosed prepaid *Information Change Card* as soon as possible. This enables us to update our records and notify the current owner.

If you are the lessor of a subject Mazda vehicle, we strongly encourage you to forward this recall notification to the lessee, as it is critical that the current driver of the vehicle is notified of the recall program.

Still have questions?

If you have any questions regarding this campaign, please contact our Customer Assistance Center at (800) 222-5500, option #4.

If Mazda or its dealers do not repair the defect free of charge and within a reasonable amount of time, you may notify the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, D.C. 20590. You may also call their toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at (888) 327-4236.

Your safety is a priority for Mazda. We actively work to improve our products and search for solutions to improve your ownership experience. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this program may have caused you.

Sincerely,

Mazda North American Operations

Requirements for Reimbursement

If you meet all of the following requirements, you are eligible to receive reimbursement under this plan:

1. An authorized Mazda dealer has inspected your vehicle and completed the 2004 RX-8 Front Passenger-Side Airbag Recall 18048-b.
2. You own or have owned a subject 2004 RX-8
3. You have paid for the repair of an improperly wired front passenger-side airbag.
4. The inspection/repair has been paid for *before* March 2005.
5. You have an original or legible copy of the paid repair order or invoice receipt showing:
 - Description of the concern reported
 - Repair of the front passenger-side airbag
 - Itemized part(s) and labor charges
 - Vehicle model and year, and vehicle identification number (chassis number)
 - Repair date
 - Repair mileage
 - Name, address, and telephone number of the authorized Mazda Dealer or a licensed repair shop where such repairs were performed
 - Your name and address at the time of repair
6. Mail this reimbursement application form in the enclosed envelope *before* March 2005 to:

**Mazda North American Operations
PO Box 5049
Lake Forest, CA 92608-0549**

Procedure for Reimbursement Request

Once your vehicle has been inspected or repaired by an authorized Mazda dealer, you may apply for reimbursement by doing the following:

1. Complete the Reimbursement Application Form found on the reverse side of this page.
2. Mail the Reimbursement Application Form with a legible copy of the paid repair order and/or invoice using the enclosed envelope *before* March 2005.
3. Retain copies of the paid repair order or invoice and this application form for your records.

If you wish to correspond with Mazda regarding this reimbursement plan, please write to the above address and refer to your vehicle identification number (VIN).

Any reimbursement application form that is incomplete, illegible, or sent without the legible copy of the paid repair order or invoice will be returned for completion. If Mazda has any questions concerning your application for reimbursement, you may be contacted. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing.

REIMBURSEMENT APPLICATION FORM

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2004 RX-8 Front Passenger-Side Airbag Recall 1604B-b

(Please type or print)

Name: _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street Address

_____ City State Zip Code

Phone Number: Home: _____
 Work: _____

Vehicle Identification Number (VIN): _____
(17 digits in length)

Total Amount of Reimbursement Requested: _____
Dollars Cents

INSTRUCTIONS FOR GENERAL RELEASE DESCRIBED BELOW:

Please:

- Read thoroughly
- Fill in vehicle identification number
- Sign the General Release (below)

General Release

I am submitting to Mazda Motor Corporation ("Mazda") a claim for reimbursement for all repairs performed to date in connection with the repair of an improperly wired front passenger-side airbag. The vehicle identification number (VIN) is:

VIN: _____

In exchange for Mazda's payment of that claim, I hereby release Mazda, its agents, and its related entities from all claims for such inspection/repair costs. This release shall benefit Mazda and its authorized agent Mazda North American Operations, its regions/distributors (foreign and domestic), its authorized dealerships, and all their respective directors, officers, agents, employees, divisions, subsidiaries, and affiliated companies. This release shall bind my heirs, successors and assigns.

Dated: _____ Signed: _____

(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR REIMBURSEMENT PLAN DETAILS)