



April 9, 2004

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

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OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT
ADMINISTRATOR
NHTSA

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Re: Submission of Part 573 report for 2001, 2002 and certain 2003 model year
Mazda Tribute 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 2001, 2002 and certain 2003 model year Mazda Tribute vehicles built between April 17, 2000 and September 11, 2002 with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) range between 4F2*****1KM00137 and 4F2*****3KM11461

Sec. 573.6 (c)(3):

Approximately 106,000 vehicles in the United States and Federal Territories.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(4):

Unknown.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(5):

During decelerations at vehicle speeds below 40 mph the 3.0L V6 engine may stall due to excessively rich fuel-air mixtures being sent to the engine. Vehicles remain controllable and can easily be maneuvered to the side of the roadway. In almost every case the engine can be restarted immediately.

There has been one personal injury claim alleging that an occupant was injured as a result of this issue.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(6):

In the second quarter of 2001 Mazda identified an increasing number of reports and warranty claims alleging engine stalling that involved 2001 model year Tribute vehicles built with the 3.0L V6 Duratec engine, and asked Ford to investigate this issue, because Ford has engineering responsibility of Mazda Tribute. In August 2001 Ford organized a task force to investigate the root causes for these alleged incidents. In December 2001 the agency opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE) investigation (PE01-043) of 3.0L engine stalling in 2001 and 2002 model year Mazda Tribute vehicles. In January and September of 2002 Ford revised the powertrain calibration for new vehicle production to prevent engine stalling during closed throttle vehicle decelerations below 40 mph. In December 2002 all of these calibration changes were made available to the dealerships when the latest TSB (01-014/02R) was issued. On February 24, 2003 the agency upgraded its investigation and sent Mazda an Engineering Analysis (EA) information request letter (EA02-027). On December 12, 2003 the agency requested updates for owner and field reports and warranty claims. On March 30, 2004 Mazda was informed that Ford decided to conduct a recall campaign for this issue on 2001, 2002 and certain 2003 model year Ford Escape. After reviewing the information, Mazda has decided to conduct a recall campaign on 2001, 2002 and certain 2003 model year Mazda Tribute and initiated preparations for this recall.

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 April 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 will be provided under separate cover when they become available. 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 will be provided under separate cover when they become available.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(11):

Mazda has assigned recall number 1904D to this action.

Sincerely yours,
Mazda North American Operations


David G. Robertson
Manager,
Environmental & Safety Engineering