

Mazda North American Operations

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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

04V-234
(3 pages)

May19, 2004

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Re.: Submission of Part 573 report for 2000 through 2002 model year Mazda MPV minivans

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):

Group 1; All 2001 model year Mazda MPV minivans equipped with cruise control (ACC) built between April 1, 2001 and November 15, 2001 with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) range between JM3LW28**10197856 and JM3LW28**10214775.

Group 2; Certain 2000 and 2001 model year Mazda MPV minivans equipped with cruise control (ACC) built between March 31, 1999 and March 31, 2001 with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) range between JM3LW28***0100038 and JM3LW28***0214775 that have had their cruise control repaired and possibly had a defective cable installed during that repair.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(3):

Group 1; Approximately 10 thousand vehicles
Group 2; Approximately 200

Sec. 573.6 (c)(4):

Unknown.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(5):

The cruise control actuator cable may be broken due to insufficient strength. There will be no cruise control malfunction as a result of the broken actuator cable. However, it is possible that the broken actuator cable may be out of position and in the worst case, it may interfere with the operation of the accelerator cable, preventing a decrease in engine speed while driving.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(6):

Mazda first became aware of this problem as a result of field reports and owner reports on February 7, 2004.

Further investigation determined that on rare occasions it was possible for a broken cruise control actuator cable to interfere with the accelerator cable, which was the cause of the problem. Mazda subsequently determined that the root cause of the problem was inadequate strength of the cruise control actuator cable installed in MPVs produced between April 2001 and March 2002.

Additionally approximately 2 hundred MPV minivans produced from March 31, 1999 through March 31, 2001 might be equipped with defective cruise control cables that might have been installed during repairs made after April 1, 2001.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(7):

Not Applicable

Sec. 573.6 (c)(8):

Group 1; All owners who have 2001 model year Mazda MPV minivan built between April 1, 2001 and November 15, 2001 will be notified of the defect by first class mail in June 2004 and be instructed to bring their vehicle to Mazda dealer.

Group 2; All owners who have 2000 and 2001 models year Mazda MPV minivans built between March 31, 1999 and March 31, 2001 will be notified of the defect by first class mail in June 2004 and be instructed as follows;

- 1) Inspect their vehicles to determine if it is equipped with a defective cruise control actuator cable. The defective cable can easily be distinguished from a proper cruise control actuator cable.
- 2) A "reply postcard" will be included in the owner letter, asking the customer to return it and provide Mazda with the result of their inspection of their MPV. If

customers determine that their vehicles are equipped with a defective actuator cable, they will be instructed to bring their vehicles to a Mazda dealer.

- 3) If customers are either unable or uncomfortable performing the vehicle inspection, they will be instructed to bring their vehicles to a Mazda dealer for the inspection and for the repair, if needed.

Note: The "reply postcards" will be provided for two reasons. First, we believe that they will encourage the owners to inspect their vehicles. And second, it will enable us to determine which owners might require second notifications should that be necessary.

Groups 1 and 2; Repair will be performed at no cost to the vehicle owner.

The owner notification letters are still under development and will be provided to you as soon as they are available. A copy of the reimbursement plan to be sent to owners and dealers as an attachment to the owner notification letters will also be provided at that time. 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. However, customers who have had a repair to their cruise control system will also be instructed to inspect their vehicle to determine if it contains a defective cruise control cable.

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

A copy of the notification letter to be sent to owners and dealers will be provided to you for your review as soon as they are available.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(11):

Mazda has assigned recall number 2004F to this action.

Sincerely yours,
Mazda North American Operations



David G. Robertson
Manager,
Environmental & Safety Engineering