

Aston Martin V12 Vanquish and Vanquish S

04V-538
(3 pages)

Potential Loss of Throttle Control

Part 573 Defect and Non-compliance Report

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacture/ brand/ trademark owner of the vehicle involved in this owner notification. If the vehicle is imported, provide the name and address of the designated agent as prescribed by section 110(e) of the National Traffic and Motor Safety Act.

Importer and Agent

Aston Martin Lagonda of North America Inc
533 Mac Arthur Boulevard
Mahwah, New Jersey 07430

Fabricating Manufacturer

Birkbys Plastic's Limited

Controller of Fabricating Manufacturer and Trademark Owner

Aston Martin Lagonda Limited

2. Identify the vehicles involved in the owner notification and for each make and model provide.

Make: Aston Martin

Model: V12 and Vanquish S

Model years involved: 2001/2002/2003/2004/2005

Production dates beginning: October 2001 through September 2004

VIN range involved: 500001 - 501558

Body style: 2-door

Vehicle type: Coupe

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles under this owner notification potentially containing the defect or non-compliance.

Total of cars possibly effected 1558, initially requiring inspection

Total of North American cars possibly effected, initially requiring inspection: 531 USA and: 21 Canada

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or non-compliance.

Inspections of all stock in the component Suppliers control indicate that the secondary retention feature may have been omitted in no greater than 5% of throttle pedal assemblies.

5. Describe the defect or non-compliance. The description should include but not be limited to a brief summary of the nature (addressing the contributing factors, if any), physical location of the defect or non-compliance, and consequence. Photographs or illustrations should be considered where appropriate.

The throttle pedal cross shaft can potentially become displaced from its housing.

It has been identified that the throttle pedal assembly on one vehicle within our factory manufacturing process, recently malfunctioned. Following a full Aston Martin Engineering investigation of this throttle pedal assembly, it was confirmed that the cross shaft had become displaced from its housing, normally retained by two independent methods of security. With the cross shaft displaced throttle control is lost.

(See illustration provided in the Service Action Recall (SAR009) documentation)

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

There have been 2 reports of throttle pedal failure. One Dealer reported failure in 2002 and one in-factory failure in 2004, both as a consequence of the cross shaft ultrasonically domed end becoming detached from the cross shaft, and having no secondary cross pin fitted.

This data has been collated from both warranty and manufacturing records.

7. With respect to a non-compliance, test results or other data which the manufacturer determined the existence of the non-compliance.

The Supplier has not been able to guarantee adherence to the production process, with the risk that the secondary retention feature is omitted in a small number of throttle pedal assemblies.

8. Furnish a description of the manufacturers program for remedying the defect or non-compliance.

Owners of the vehicles that fall within the VIN range will be notified of the potential defect, and asked to deliver their vehicles to an authorized Aston Martin Dealer for inspection. Dealers will be instructed to carry out the inspection procedure, and if necessary follow the rectification procedure contained within Service Action Recall SAR009. (Refer to Service Action Recall attached).

9. Furnish a copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or non-compliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealers, or purchasers. These copies are to be submitted to the Office of Defect Investigations no later than 5 days after they are first sent to manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or purchasers. Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.

The manufacturer identification code for this owner notification is: SAR009.

Please address all questions concerning Service Action Recall (SAR 009) issued in November 2004, to:

Richard Powell
Customer Service Manager

Aston Martin Lagonda of North America Inc
533 MacArthur Boulevard
Mahwah, NJ 07430-2326

Telephone: 201 818 8352
Facsimile: 201 818 8328