

Mazda North American Operations



04V-605  
(3 pages)

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

December 22, 2004

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Re.: Submission of Part 573 report for certain 2004 and 2005 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 report concerning noncompliance with section 4.4.1.4 of FMVSS 206 for 2004 and 2005 model year Mazda Tribute vehicles.

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):

Certain 2004 and 2005 model year Mazda Tribute vehicles built between June 6, 2003 through July 30, 2004 with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) range between 4F2\*Z\*\*\*\*4KM00004 and 4F2\*Z\*\*\*\*4KM34822, and between 4F2\*Z\*\*\*\*5KM00003 and 4F2\*Z\*\*\*\*5KM22946.

Also included are any 2001 through 2003 model year Mazda Tribute vehicles that were serviced with the same design level parts as the 2004 model year rear liftgate latch components.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(3):

Approximately 49,800 vehicles

Sec. 573.6 (c)(4):

All of the subject vehicles are expected to have this condition.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(5):

The latch supplier's original calculations used to demonstrate regulatory compliance of the rear liftgate latching system to certain FMVSS 206 requirements on the affected vehicles incorrectly applied accelerations using the vehicle longitudinal (X), transverse (Y), and vertical (Z) directions rather than in the Load 1, Load 2, and Load 3 directions as specified in S4.4.1.4 of the regulation.

When the calculations were performed in the correct directions, the rear liftgate latching system on the 2004 and 2005 model year subject vehicles did not meet the FMVSS 206 Inertia Load requirement in one direction.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(6):

Not Applicable

Sec. 573.6 (c)(7):

Mazda was informed by Ford on December 17, 2004 that the affected vehicles may not comply with FMVSS 206. Ford also advised Mazda that they planned to conduct a recall campaign for Ford Escape vehicles that did not comply with FMVSS 206. Once Mazda verified that this same problem affected some Mazda Tribute vehicles, a decision was made to conduct a recall campaign.

Please see Part 573 report of Ford's recall number 04C09 for further details.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(8):

For affected 2004 model year vehicles dealers will be instructed to replace the rear liftgate latch release rod, the release rod attachment clip and the door handle return spring. For affected 2005 model year vehicles, dealers will be instructed to replace the rear liftgate latch release rod and the release rod attachment clip. The 2001 through 2003 model year vehicles that were serviced as described above will have the same components replaced as described for the 2004 model year subject vehicles.

Owners of record will be notified of the defect by first class mail in January 2005 and be instructed to bring their vehicle to Mazda dealer. Repairs 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 submitted for your review under a separate cover letter when it becomes 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.

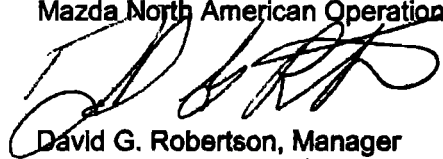
Sec. 573.6 (c)(9) & (10):

A copy of the notification letter to be sent to owners and dealers will be submitted for your review under separate cover letter when it becomes available.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(11):

Mazda has assigned recall number 2804L to this action.

Sincerely yours,  
Mazda North American Operations

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Robertson', written over the printed name below.

David G. Robertson, Manager  
Environmental & Safety Engineering