

Mazda North American Operations



Mr. Ronald Medford
Senior Associate Administrator for Motor Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

September 16, 2005

Dear Mr. Medford:

05V-412
(2 pages)

Re.: Submission of Part 573 report for 2006 model year Mazda5 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 defect on the 2006 model year Mazda5. We are still investigating this problem and we have not yet determined the appropriate remedy. As soon as we have reached some decisions on these matters we will submit a supplemental report. Meanwhile, we have stopped the sale of these vehicles and plan to initiate an owner notification campaign as soon as possible.

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

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Sec. 573.6 (c)(2):

Some 2006 model year Mazda5 vehicles built between April 12, 2005 and September 7, 2005 with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) range between JM1CR29**60100023 and JM1CR29**60109859

Sec. 573.6 (c)(3):

Approximately 5,500 vehicles, of which approximately 2,500 vehicles were registered

Sec. 573.6 (c)(4):

Unknown.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(5):

In some 2006 model year Mazda5 vehicles, there can be a heat buildup in the exhaust system that in the worst case can produce a vehicle fire. Based on the limited information available, when fires do occur, they appear to start around the left rear bumper of the vehicle. Mazda is now investigating the situation. Once additional information regarding the cause of the problem is available, we will submit a supplemental report.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(6):

Mazda first became aware of this matter as a result of a single field report received in August 2005. We immediately initiated an investigation of this matter. Since then, we have learned of three additional instances of vehicle fires in the 2006 Mazda5. We are urgently investigating the cause of the problem in order to develop an appropriate remedy.

On September 16, 2005, Mazda notified our dealers of the problem and suspended sale of the affected vehicles. In addition, Mazda will initiate an owner notification campaign as soon as possible.

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 as soon as a draft letter can be developed by Mazda and approved by NHTSA. Owners will be instructed to bring their vehicle to a Mazda dealer while we develop a remedy and make repairs. In the interim, Mazda will provide a rental or loaner car at no cost to the vehicle owner.

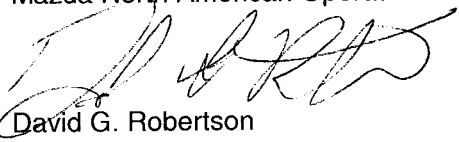
A copy of the reimbursement plan to be sent to owners will be provided along with a draft of our owner notification letter as soon as possible.

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

A copy of the notification letter to owners will be provided when it becomes available.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(11):

Not yet assigned

Sincerely yours,
Mazda North American Operations

David G. Robertson
Manager,
Environmental & Safety Engineering