



August 2005

2004 RX-8 Front Lower Arm Ball Joint 3405G

Dear Mazda Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Mazda Motor Corporation has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2004 RX-8 vehicles produced from April 10, 2003 through December 27, 2003. **If you are a recipient of this notice, your vehicle is included in this campaign.**

What is the problem?

On certain 2004 RX-8 vehicles, the ball joint socket of the lower arm may have cracks. In certain severe driving conditions, the ball-stud may separate from the ball joint socket and a loss of steering may occur which could result in a crash.

What will Mazda do?

Your Mazda dealer will inspect the front lower arms, and if necessary, replace the affected parts **free of charge**. The inspection should take approximately half hour to complete, and the replacement should take approximately two hours to complete. However, it may take longer depending on the service workload at your Mazda dealership.

As a reminder, the Mazda Driver's Assurance Plan may provide alternate transportation when your vehicle is at an authorized Mazda dealership for a warranty repair. To be eligible for alternate transportation, your vehicle must be a 2001 or newer and within the mileage and time limitations under the Mazda New Vehicle Limited Warranty and adhere to the Rental Car Reimbursement policy. Ask your dealer for details about the Mazda Rental Car Reimbursement Program.

What should you do?

Mazda is concerned about your safety, and we encourage you to make an appointment with any authorized Mazda dealer to have the front lower arms inspected and replaced, if necessary, as soon as possible. You do not need to bring this notice to the dealer, but it may assist in the check-in process.

What if you have already paid for a replacement of front lower arms?

If you have already paid for the inspection or replacement of the front lower arms due to a defect, you may be eligible for reimbursement of reasonable repair expenses based on Mazda's repair standards. Please complete the enclosed "Reimbursement Application Form," including the necessary documentation, and mail it to us in the pre-addressed envelope provided, allowing 6-8 weeks for processing.

Where is the closest Mazda dealer?

To locate your nearest Mazda dealer, visit our web site and try our "Locate a Dealer" feature at www.MazdaUSA.com or consult your local yellow pages.

Moved or no longer own this vehicle?

If you have moved or no longer own your RX-8, please complete the enclosed prepaid *Information Change Card* as soon as possible. This enables us to update our records and notify the current owner.

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Still have questions?

If you have any questions regarding this campaign, please contact our Customer Assistance Center at (800) 222-5500, option #4.

If Mazda or its dealers do not repair the defect free of charge and within a reasonable amount of time, you may notify the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

Your safety is a priority for Mazda. We actively work to improve our products and search for solutions to improve your ownership experience. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience this program may have caused you.

Sincerely,

Mazda North American Operations