

06E-056
(2pts.)

June 13, 2006

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

Daniel C. Smith,
Associate Administrator for Enforcement,
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr Smith,

Sofima Automotive Filter [Shanghai] Company Ltd. (hereinafter Sofima) fabricates fuel filters. UFI Filters USA, Inc. is the U.S. affiliate of Sofima. UFI sells fuel filters in the United States fabricated by Sofima. Sofima has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in a fuel filter sold by UFI only to Purolator, (Purolator Part No. F65277). Sofima is filing this Defect Information Report in compliance with 49 CFR 573.6(c).

§ 573.6(c)

(1) The manufacturer's name:

Sofima Automotive Filter [Shanghai] Company, Ltd.

The fuel filters are sold in the United States by UFI Filters USA, Inc., an affiliate of Sofima:

UFI Filters USA, Inc.
110 Firestone Pointe,
Duluth, GA 30097

(2) Identification of the items of motor vehicle equipment potentially containing the defect

Fuel filter (Purolator Part No: F65277), sold only to Purolator Corporation as replacement equipment. All of these filters that have been sold to Purolator are subject to this recall. Production of this filter began in late 2005 and continued until May 2006. Purolator shipped the subject items of equipment from January 16 through June 2, 2006.

None of the items of equipment are purchased by vehicle manufacturers for use as original equipment.

(3) The total number of items of equipment potentially containing the defect:

There were 58,640 fuel filters part number F65277 sold. All were sold to Purolator for sales in the aftermarket.

(5) A description of the defect:

Sofima has determined that their bill of material (BOM) was incorrect. It called out a tube with a connector that did not meet SAE J2044. It was determined that the connector was changed by Sofima's engineering to reflect a Japanese JIS standard. Because of this change, some quick connectors may not fully seat with the tube interface, even though the person making the connection may believe that the quick connector is fully attached. Failure of this connection could lead to fuel spillage and might result in a vehicle fire. It also would be possible for the engine to stall, if it were not getting the appropriate air fuel mixture or if it did not get any fuel. This filter fits 21 applications. To the best of our knowledge only the few applications that use the Legris connector may not appropriately attach to the tube on the filter.

This report was sent by e-mail to Kelly Schuler and Kathleen DeMeter on June 13, 2006. A signed copy of this report is being faxed to Ms. Schuler. Sofima, through UFI, will provide NHTSA with the additional required information, as it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Christer Sundell,

President, UFI Filters USA, Inc.

cc. Ms. Kelly Schuler (by facsimile)