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06V-418
(3 pages)

James P. Vondale, Director
Automotive Safety Office
Environmental & Safety Engineering

Fairlane Plaza South
330 Town Center Drive
Dearborn, MI 48126-2738 USA

October 23, 2006

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Jaguar Recall No. R176 -- Jaguar S-TYPE Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) II Fuel Tank
Seals

Summary

- Action – Jaguar Cars (Jaguar), which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ford Motor Company (Ford), is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2005 model year Jaguar S-TYPE vehicles built at the Castle Bromwich (UK) Assembly Plant from January 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005 to replace fuel tanks.
- Number of Vehicles Involved – 13,655 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.
- Affect on Vehicle Operation – Some of the affected vehicles may contain fuel delivery module (FDM), jet pump module (JPM) and/or cluster valve seals located on the top of the tank that are not properly retained due to fuel tank manufacturing variability and/or excessive clamp loads. If the sealing is inadequate, the On Board Diagnostic leak detection system may sense an evaporative system hole of greater than 0.5 mm diameter and illuminate an amber Malfunction Indicator Lamp on the instrument cluster (Check Engine Light). If the fuel tank is fully filled with fuel or the vehicle is parked on a hill with a leak path present, the driver may notice fuel odor or fuel leakage.
- Service Program – Dealers will be instructed to replace the fuel tanks on the affected vehicles.

Attached is the detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 - Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.P. Vondale".

J.P. Vondale

Attachment



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49 CFR Part 573 - DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
RECALL R176 – Certain 2005 Model Year Jaguar S-TYPE – Petrol Fuel Tanks

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Ford submits the following information concerning a safety recall action that is being initiated voluntarily by Jaguar.

573.6 (c) (2) - Potentially Affected Vehicles

Certain 2005 model year Jaguar S-TYPE vehicles built at the Castle Bromwich (UK) Assembly Plant from January 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, VIN range SAJWA01T05FN06773 to SAJWA03VX51N51523 are potentially affected.

573.6 (c) (3) -- Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected

13,655 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.

573.6 (c) (4) - Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Condition

Unknown

573.6 (c) (5) -- Description of the Defect

Some of the affected vehicles may contain fuel delivery module (FDM), jet pump module (JPM) and/or cluster valve seals located on the top of the tank that are not properly retained due to fuel tank manufacturing variability and/or excessive clamp loads. If the sealing is inadequate, the On Board Diagnostic leak detection system may sense an evaporative system hole of greater than 0.5 mm diameter and illuminate an amber Malfunction Indicator Lamp on the instrument cluster (Check Engine Light). If the fuel tank is fully filled with fuel or the vehicle is parked on a hill with a leak path present, the driver may notice fuel odor or fuel leakage.

The component is manufactured by TI Group Automotive Systems Tenth Avenue, Deeside, CH5 2UA, UK.

573.6 (c) (6) -- Chronology of Events

As of September, 2006, Jaguar has received four White Alerts from the field alleging fuel leaking from the fuel tank aperture seals on 2005 model year S-TYPE vehicles. During Jaguar's investigation into the concern, an additional 30 warranty claims were located that indicated the possibility of a visible fuel leak from the fuel tank seals, primarily after refilling the tank. A review of the tank supplier's manufacturing process by Jaguar and supplier engineers indicated that several process changes and improvement actions were implemented during the changeover from 2005 to 2006 model year production, including the following:

- A reduction in the torque applied to the seal clamping ring,
- The introduction of a double spring band clamping ring,

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- The usage of a different tank carcass molding machine,
- The introduction of a different JPM and FDM components supplier, and
- A revision in the specification to include additional significant and critical characteristics that require monitoring during production

This issued was reviewed at the Jaguar Technical Review Group on October 12, 2006, where failure modes and the scope of the affected vehicle population were reviewed. At the Jaguar Field Review Committee on October 16, 2006, Jaguar management decided to voluntarily recall these vehicles to replace the fuel tanks.

There have been no reports of any accidents, fires, or injuries as a result of this concern.

573.6 (c) (8) Service Program

Dealers will be instructed to replace the fuel tanks on the affected vehicles. There will be no charge to owners for this service.

Jaguar plans to commence notification to owners beginning the week of December 4, 2006, scheduled to be completed by December 22, 2006.

In accordance with Part 573.13 (d)(1), Jaguar is excluding reimbursement for costs incurred by owners for repair of this problem because Jaguar's original warranty program would provide for a free repair for this concern for customers.

573.6 (c) (9) -- Press statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

Jaguar does not plan to make a public statement concerning the subject matter of this action. A copy of the notification letters to dealers and owners from Jaguar will be forwarded when available.

573.6 (c) (11) -- Recall Number

Jaguar has assigned recall number R176 to this action.