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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

06V-483
(6 pages)

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles

PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Report[1]

On November 29, 2006, Hino Motors Sales U.S.A., Inc. decided that (a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety)(a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. _____) exist in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Reports.

Date this report was prepared: December 4, 2006

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): M0070

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Hino Motors Sales U.S.A., Inc.

2555 Telegraph Rd., Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

George M. Daniels

Senior National Manager, Service Operations

Telephone Number: 248-648-6430 **Fax No.:** 248-615-0105

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Eric Lannon

Warranty Manager

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[1]Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. Jon White at (202) 366-5227 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, *for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide*:

Make(s): Hino **Model Years Involved**: 2006 and 2007 **Model(s)**: ND8J, NE8J, NJ8J, NV8J

Production Dates: **Beginning**: 03/01/2006 **Ending**: 06/14/2006

VIN Range: **Beginning**: 5PVNJ8JP562S50053 **Ending**: 5PVNV8JV872S50245
Vehicle Type: Cross Member #4, #5, #6 **Bodystyle**: N/A

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:
During the Stamping process some crossmembers were formed with a deformation located at the corners of the crossmember. The deformation can be described as a crack or notch in the formed corner area or even a possible weld in this area as in some cases the manufacturer reworked some of the cross members.

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved**: _____ **Model(s)**: _____

Production Dates: **Beginning**: _____ **Ending**:

VIN Range: **Beginning**: _____ **Ending**: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle**: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved**: _____ **Model(s)**: _____

Production Dates: **Beginning**: _____ **Ending**:

VIN Range: **Beginning**: _____ **Ending**: _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle**: _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled

model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period.

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

Model	Year	Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved
ND8J	2006	26
NE8J	2006	55
NJ8J	2006	70
NV8J	2006	82
ND8J	2007	171
NE8J	2007	287
NJ8J	2007	721
NV8J	2007	187

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 1599

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: Unknown

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

Initially, during vehicle assembly, a supplied crossmember was observed which had been welded at one corner. Further investigation revealed that more vehicles had one or more crossmembers which were either cracked, notched or reworked welded corners. The first units went through production on March 1st, 2006. Production ceased on June 14th, 2006 once our inspections of the vehicles in inventory were completed.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

During the stamping process some crossmembers were formed with a deformation located at the corners of the crossmember. The crossmembers in question are located in the #4, #5 and #6 positions in the specified models and years.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The deformation was due to wearing of the stamping die.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The life expectancy of the defective crossmembers would be less than design intent. Although the vehicles involved were 2006 and 2007 model years and thus the reduced life expectancy for defective crossmembers was not likely to be reached for a significant period, Hino decided to conduct a safety-related recall campaign at the present time.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

The crossmember will have the appearance of a notch or crack in the corners. The crossmember may also be welded in the same location. Operational tests are in the process of being conducted with a defective crossmember. The vehicle has been driven over severe road test conditions for 70,000 kilometers and no adverse driving condition has occurred. Such durability tests are expected to continue for the life expectancy of the vehicle and test results will be provided to NHTSA.

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

Metalsa, Carr. Miguel Aleman Km 16.5 No. 100, A.P. 102 Apodaca, N.L. Mexico 666000

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

Francisco Gonzalez, Business Development Sales & Customer Service, c/o Metalsa, 356 Simmons Drive, Suite 102, Cloverdale, VA 24077

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

June 21, 2006: **the vehicle assembly plant found a crossmember which had been welded at one corner.**

June 22, 2006: **inspection of 627 vehicles located at Marshalling yard revealed 224 vehicles contained one or more crossmembers with the deformation and or welded corners.**

June 28 – July 9, 2006: **222 Vehicles were reworked to have the suspect crossmembers replaced.**

July 17 – July 25, 2006: **Hino Motors Ltd. (HML) Experimental Division performed stress tests for expected life comparison of suspect crossmembers.**

July 26, 2006: **Experimental Division reported the results of the stress tests.**

August 2006: **Hino Motors Manufacturing, USA (HMM) investigation of Field Reports, Customer Complaints and Warranty Claims revealed "0" reports, complaints or claims related to this issue.**

September 28, 2006: **HML investigation concluded that suspect crossmembers were used in vehicle assembly between March 1st, 2006 and June 14th, 2006.**

November 29, 2006: **Hino Motors Manufacturing, USA (HMM) investigation of Field Reports, Customer Complaints and Warranty Claims revealed "0" reports, complaints or claims related to this issue.**

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

V. Identify the Remedy

6. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

See attached Recall Bulletin for remedy procedures.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

Recalled component: No Difference

Remedy component: No Difference

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

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VII. Furnish Recall Communications

9. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. ***A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.***

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 573.8 requirements.