

07V-157
(3 pages)

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

March 30, 2007

Dear Mr. Smith:

Re.: Submission of Part 573 report for 2001 - 2004 Model Year Mazda Tribute 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-related recall action that it is initiating.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(1):

Mazda Motor Corporation with Designated Agent:

David G. Robertson, Group Manager
Environmental, Safety and Powertrain Engineering
Mazda North American Operations
1500 Enterprise Drive, Allen Park
Michigan 48101-2053

Sec. 573.6 (c)(2):

Vehicles potentially affected are certain 2001-2004 model year Mazda Tribute vehicles equipped with ABS braking system and were built at the Kansas City Assembly Plant (KCAP) from April 17, 2000 through December 19, 2003. Because these vehicles are not all produced with ABS systems, information as to the applicability of this action to specific vehicles can best be obtained by contacting a local Mazda dealer who can obtain specific information regarding the vehicles.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(3):

Approximately 95,300 vehicles are affected.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(4):

Unknown

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(5):

The electrical wiring harness was manufactured with some components either missing or wire seals were improperly installed around a power supply or ground connection wire terminal on the ABS module connector. If the seal is missing or was improperly installed, over time, contamination (brake fluid spill, road spray, car wash, for examples) may enter the electrical connection. The contamination may cause corrosion of the electrical pins in the connection and may result in an electrical path between the power supply and ground pins. The result may be an illuminated ABS warning indicator or in rare cases, the electrical connector may overheat, smoke, or burn.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(6):

In November 2006, NHTSA opened an investigation of fires at or near the ABS module involving 2001-2003 model year Tribute vehicles. During the course of the investigation, Mazda identified 26 incidents that resulted in smoke, melting, or fire may have been related to an ABS connector corrosion concern. There are no allegations of accidents or injuries. The service brake system remains functional if this condition exists.

Although no fires have been identified on 2004 model year Tribute vehicles, that model year is being included because those vehicles share components and designs with the 2001-2003 model year vehicles.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(7):

Not applicable.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(8):

Owners of record will be notified of the defect and instructed to take their vehicles to a Mazda dealer to have the ABS electrical connector inspected for seal issues. If a seal issue is present the vehicle will be repaired. All vehicles will have dielectric grease applied to the connector to further reduce the possibility of any contamination entering the connection. These repairs will be performed at no cost to the vehicle owner.

A copy of the reimbursement plan to be sent to owners and dealers as an attachment to the owner notification letter will be provided when the draft owner notification letter is submitted. With respect to reimbursement, customers will be reimbursed based on the submission of a receipt indicating the amount paid by the customer to remedy this defect.

Dealers will be notified of the defect during the week of April 16, 2007.

Mailing of owner notification by first class mail will begin on April 30, 2007 and be completed on April 30, 2007.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(9)

Not Applicable.

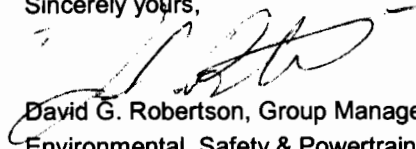
Sec. 573.6 (c)(10) & (11):

A copy of the notification letters to be sent to owners and dealers will be sent when they become available.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(12):

Mazda has assigned recall number 4507C to this action.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Robertson', is written over the printed name.

David G. Robertson, Group Manager,
Environmental, Safety & Powertrain Engineering
Mazda North American Operations