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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.



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April 27, 2007

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 5321
Washington, DC 20590

07V-199
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Subject: Jaguar Recall No. J003 -- 2007 and 2008 Model Year Jaguar XKR Vehicles -- Brake Vacuum Hose Routing

Summary

Action - Jaguar, which is an affiliate of Ford Motor Company (Ford), is conducting a voluntary safety recall involving certain 2007 and 2008 model year Jaguar XKR vehicles built at the Castle Bromwich (UK) Assembly Plant from May 30, 2006, through December 19, 2006, to inspect the brake vacuum hose routing for proximity to the Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR) valve and attachments and adjust the hose position, if necessary. The hose will be replaced if it shows any sign of heat-related damage. Jaguar has no evidence to indicate that the condition does or will present an unreasonable risk to safety, but is undertaking this action to avoid a protracted dispute with the agency.

Number of Vehicles Involved - 277 vehicles in the United States and Federalized Territories.

Affect on Vehicle Operation - If a hose has been mis-routed such that a contact condition is present, the hose may melt and the vacuum supply to the brake booster may be diminished. The agency also expressed the concern that if the hose was in close proximity to the EGR valve it could deteriorate over time and leak. Jaguar has no evidence that such hose deterioration will occur. If the hose leaks the customer may notice an increase in the brake pedal effort required to generate vehicle deceleration after vacuum is depleted from the booster, which would typically occur only after the first pedal application following the vacuum hose leak.

Service Program - Dealers will be instructed to inspect the brake vacuum hose routing and adjust, if necessary. The hose will be replaced if it shows any sign of heat-related damage. The detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 - Defect and Non-Compliance Information Report is attached.

Sincerely,


J. P. Vondale

Attachment



49 CFR Part 573 - DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT
RECALL J003 – certain 2007 and 2008 Model Year Jaguar XK Vehicles

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

All 2007-2008 Model Year Jaguar XKR vehicles built at the Castle Bromwich (UK) Assembly Plant from May 30, 2006, through December 19, 2006, within VIN range SAJWA44C879B05172 to SAJWA43C979B14187, are potentially affected.

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

277 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

The brake servo vacuum supply hose may be mis-routed during the engine and suspension to body assembly process. The hose is not visible to the operator who connects it to the servo pipe in the secondary bulkhead. The brake assistance system operates correctly at time of test through the vehicle manufacturing process.

The mis-route condition may bring the pipe close to the Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR) valve and attachments on the exhaust manifold. In the case of a contact condition, the brake vacuum hose may melt leading to a loss of brake assistance. The agency also expressed the concern that if the hose was in close proximity to the EGR valve it could deteriorate over time and leak. Jaguar has no evidence that such hose deterioration will occur. If the hose leaks the customer may notice an increase in the brake pedal effort required to generate vehicle deceleration after vacuum is depleted from the booster, which would typically occur only after the first pedal application following the vacuum hose leak.

573.6 (c) (6) - Chronology of Events

Jaguar became aware of the potential brake vacuum hose mis-routing concern on January 11, 2007, following receipt of a dealer field report. An additional dealer field report was received on January 12, 2007, reporting a similar condition. The Castle Bromwich Assembly plant issued a Freeze Shipment for XK vehicles and carried out an inspection of all XK vehicles on site. There were no vehicles identified with mis-routed hoses.

A Quarantine Notice was issued on the January 12, 2007, to dealers to not release or sell vehicles for until completion of the rework action.

The issue was raised and reviewed at the Jaguar Critical Concerns Review Group (CCRG) on January 16, 2007. The CCRG concluded that the concern did not represent an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety; however, in an abundance of caution, unsold vehicles were to be modified prior to sale and sold vehicles inspected and repaired, as necessary, at the next available opportunity.

The Update Prior to Sale and Customer Satisfaction Field Service Action (FSA) program number K001 was approved on January 25, 2007.

On February 27, 2007, the agency contacted the Ford Automotive Safety Office and requested information concerning the Jaguar Customer Satisfaction FSA K001. During March Ford and agency personnel discussed the condition on several occasions.

Subsequent to the Agency's discussions with Ford's Automotive Safety Office, the Jaguar CCRG further reviewed the concern on April 4, 2007. The investigation was considered at Jaguar's Technical Review Group on April 18, 2007, where potential failure modes and the scope of the affected vehicle population were reviewed along with the position taken by the agency in this matter.

At the Jaguar Field Review Committee April 20, 2007, Jaguar management, given the position taken by the agency, decided to voluntarily recall vehicles not repaired under the terms of Update Prior to Sale and Customer Satisfaction program K001 to inspect and where required re-route or replace the brake booster vacuum hose.

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 inspect the brake vacuum hose routing and adjust as necessary. The hose will be replaced if there are signs of damage.

In accordance with Part 573.13 (d)(1), Jaguar is excluding reimbursement for costs incurred by owners for repair of this concern because Jaguar's original warranty program would provide for a free repair for this concern for customers. Jaguar anticipates that mailing of owner notification letters will begin on or about June 1, 2007.

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 J003 to this action.

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