

Schuler, Kelly (NHTSA)

From: michael.d.scott@daimler.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 9:52 AM
To: Schuler, Kelly (NHTSA)
Cc: Lopez, Delia (NHTSA)
Subject: Follow up on safety recall 09V-418 - Campaign Launch Date
Attachments: Revised Intake Manifold Campaign Start Date Info Letter 2_2_2010.pdf

Kelly,

Attached please find the revised campaign timing document that indicates we intend to launch safety recall 09V-418 on or before April 12, 2010. I want to also give you some background information on why the launch date is so far past the date of the original 573.

The affected vehicle population for this campaign consists of 2002 and 2003 MY Sprinter vans. At the time that these vehicles were built, the Sprinter production volume for the US was in the low thousands. Approximately 6,000. At the time, the supplier of the intake manifold only needed 1 piece of equipment to production such low volume of intakes. Now that we have a recall campaign and it affects over 13,000 vehicles, the supplier has inadequate equipment to produce such a high volume of intakes in such a short amount of time. We need at least 35% part accumulation in order to launch the campaign. That is the reason for the amount of time that will pass between the original 573 and the launch of the campaign.

The reason it has taken us so long to understand and know what launch date that we could provide to you is, we have been in constant communication and negotiation with the supplier of the original part to get them to agree on a date that they could provide to us at least 35% of the total parts that we will need for the campaign. At initial negotiations the supplier would not promise to any date earlier than 12 months. After intense negotiations and the realization that the supplier needed to procure additional equipment to fulfill this need, the supplier finally agreed to a more amicable release date of April 12, 2010 for the initial 35% of the over 13,000 parts needed.

I want to thank you for your time and patience on this issue and assure you that the customer's safety is our priority. Although this campaign is a safety campaign, we have only seen this issue in the field on 5 vehicles within one fleet customer's fleet. We have not seen this issue in the normal customer population or with any other fleet.

I have attached a campaign start date notification letter, and if you need me to submit an amended 573 report I can do that as well.

Kind regards,

(See attached file: Revised Intake Manifold Campaign Start Date Info Letter 2_2_2010.pdf)

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