

RECEIVED

By delia.lopez at 2:17 pm, Sep 22, 2010

September 22, 2010

ISUZU
DET-10-096

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

10V-436
(3 Pages)

Re: MY 1998-2002 Isuzu Rodeo/Honda Passport and MY 2002 Isuzu Axiom:
Safety recall to address excessive corrosion affecting rear suspension lower link
brackets.

Dear Mr. Smith:

On behalf of Isuzu Motors Limited, Japan ("Isuzu Motors"), Isuzu Manufacturing Services of America, Inc. (collectively, "Isuzu") hereby submits this report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.

Isuzu will voluntarily conduct a safety recall in order to address the agency's concerns raised in PE09-030 and EA09-018 about excessive corrosion affecting the rear suspension lower link brackets in certain Isuzu Rodeo, Isuzu Axiom and Honda Passport vehicles (see model years specified above) and to address customer concerns. Isuzu has not historically considered the presence of excessive corrosion in old, high-mileage vehicles operated in jurisdictions that use highly corrosive road de-icing materials, such as seen in this case in the area of the rear suspension lower link brackets, to constitute a safety-related defect, and Isuzu is aware that, in the past, NHTSA has allowed other manufacturers to address similar issues without conducting a safety recall. However, Isuzu understands that the agency's position has evolved on this point. In light of this, Isuzu has decided to conduct a safety recall at this time, under which it will provide a free remedy for affected vehicles that are ten years old or less. In addition, Isuzu will voluntarily offer a free remedy for vehicles that are more than ten years old, provided that such vehicles are presented to an Isuzu service facility or a Honda dealer, as applicable, no later than twelve (12) months after the date of mailing of the notification letter to the owner.

The detailed information required by applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 is attached. If you have any questions, please contact me at 734-582-9262.

Sincerely,



Jeffery A. Marsee
Chief Representative
Emission and Safety
Isuzu Manufacturing Services of America, Inc.

Attachment

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

573.6(c)(1):

Manufacturer: Isuzu Motors Limited
6-26-1, Minami-oi, Shinagawa-ku,
Tokyo, 140-8722, Japan

U.S. Liaison Office: Isuzu Manufacturing Services of America, Inc.
46401 Commerce Center Drive
Plymouth, Michigan 48170

U.S. Distributors: Isuzu Motors America, LLC [Isuzu Rodeo, Isuzu Axiom]
1400 South Douglass Road
Suite 100
Anaheim, CA 92806

American Honda Motor Co., Inc. [Honda Passport]
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746

573.6(c)(2):

Certain model year 1998-2002 Isuzu Rodeo and Honda Passport vehicles and model year 2002 Isuzu Axiom vehicles that are currently registered in, or were first sold in, the "salt belt" states: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri, as well as Kentucky, which is not always considered to be in the "salt belt." Isuzu will provide the VIN range and manufacture date range when they become available.

573.6(c)(3):

Isuzu is in the process of determining the total number of vehicles to be included in this campaign and will supplement this report when that information becomes available.

573.6(c)(4):

Unknown.

573.6(c)(5):

Vehicles that have experienced sustained exposure to highly corrosive materials used in some jurisdictions for road deicing purposes may experience excessive corrosion in the vicinity of the forward mounting point bracket for the left or right rear suspension lower link prior to the time that such corrosion would normally be expected. In certain extreme cases, excessive corrosion in this vicinity may result in the left or right rear suspension lower link bracket becoming detached from the frame, which can affect vehicle handling and potentially cause a crash.

573.6(c)(6):

On June 16, 2009, NHTSA opened PE09-030 on certain Isuzu Rodeo and Honda Passport vehicles. On December 7, 2009, NHTSA opened EA09-018. Throughout this investigation, Isuzu cooperated with and provided information to the agency. On September 15, 2010, Isuzu decided to conduct a safety recall of the vehicles identified in NHTSA's investigation, as well as in certain Isuzu Axiom vehicles.

573.6(c)(8):

Isuzu will provide written notification to each owner of a vehicle that is currently registered in, or was first sold in, the states identified in Item (c)(2), above, requesting the owner to present the vehicle for an inspection of the rear suspension lower link bracket area to determine if corrosion is present in the area. For vehicles in which corrosion has damaged the rear suspension lower link bracket and affected its connection to the vehicle's frame, a reinforcement bracket will be installed. For vehicles in which little or no corrosion in that area is observed at the time of the inspection, Isuzu will treat the area with an anti-corrosion compound to reduce the likelihood of additional corrosion in that area of the vehicle in the future. The inspection and repairs will be provided free of charge for vehicles that are ten years old or less. However, for vehicles that are more than ten years old, which are not entitled to a free remedy under the statute, Isuzu will voluntarily offer a free remedy, but only if the vehicle is presented to an Isuzu service facility or a Honda dealer, as applicable, no later than twelve (12) months after the date of mailing of the notification letter to the owner.

Isuzu plans to begin customer notification when parts and tools become available, and will provide a more detailed schedule to the agency under separate cover.

Pursuant to 577.13, Isuzu will offer to provide reimbursement to owners who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for this problem within one year before this notice.

573.6(c)(10):

Copies of draft owner notification letters will be provided to NHTSA under separate cover when they are available.