

Mazda North American Operations



Mr. Claude H. Harris
Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W45-231
Washington, DC 20590

February 25th, 2011

Dear Mr. Harris,

Re.: Submission of Part 573 report for 2009-2010 MY Mazda6 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 voluntary recall action that it is initiating.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(1) - Manufacturer's Name:

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) – Potentially Affected Vehicles:

2009-2010 Model Year Mazda6 vehicles equipped with 2.5L engine built from April 8, 2008 through February 8, 2010. Plant information and the VIN range are as follows;

Vehicle	2009 - 2010MY Mazda6
Plant	Auto Alliance International, Inc. 1 International Drive, Flat Rock, Michigan 48134, USA
VIN range	1YV HP8***95 M00057 - M52255 1YV HZ8***A5 M00013 - M33391

Sec. 573.6 (c)(3) – Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected:

Approximately 52,000 vehicles in the United States and its federalized territories are potentially affected.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(4) – Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Defect Condition:

Unknown

Sec. 573.6 (c)(5) – Description of the Defect:

On certain Mazda6 vehicles, a certain type of spider may weave a web in the evaporative canister vent line and this may cause a restriction in the line. If this occurs, the fuel tank pressure may become excessively negative when the emission control system works to purge the vapors from the canister. As the canister is purged repeatedly during normal operation, the stress on the fuel tank may eventually result in a crack, potentially leading to fuel leakage and an increased risk of fire. Mazda is not aware of any fires related to this condition.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(6) – Chronology of Events:

In May 2009, the first report was received from a customer in the United States which described fuel leakage from the fuel tank. Upon inspection, fuel leakage through a crack on top side of the fuel tank was found, but the root cause was not identified because there was no abnormality of the fuel tank material and plate thickness. The canister vent line was not retrieved at this time. In October 2009, the second report was received. In addition a presence of a crack on the fuel tank, a spider web was found in the canister vent line. Our subsequent investigation revealed that a spider web caused a restriction in the canister vent line and excessive vacuum in the fuel tank occurred due to the canister purge events which eventually resulted in a crack in the fuel tank through repetitive negative pressure stress.

February 2011, Mazda determined that the condition constituted a safety related defect, requiring a recall campaign.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(7) – Basis of Non-Compliance Determination:

Not applicable.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(8) – Service Program:

Owners of record will be notified of this issue and instructed to take their vehicles to a Mazda dealer to have inspected and repaired. Upon inspection/repair, the canister vent line will be cleaned, a spring to prohibit spider intrusion will be installed, and the Powertrain Control Module will be reprogrammed with modified software having a function to avoid excessive negative pressure of the fuel tank. When any damage of the fuel tank and/or presence of a web in the canister vent line is found, the fuel tank and the check valve on the canister vent line will be replaced. The inspection/repair will be performed free of charge to the vehicle owners.

A copy of the reimbursement application form to be sent to owners and dealers as an attachment to the owner notification letter will be submitted when it becomes available. 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 problem.

Dealers will be notified of the voluntary recall in the week of March 14, 2011. The mailing of owner notification letters by first class mail will begin on March 25, 2011 and completed on that day.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(9) – Service Program for Tire Replacement:

Not applicable.

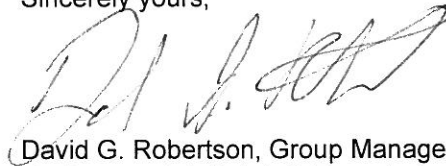
Sec. 573.6 (c)(10) – Copy of notification letters:

A Copy of the owner notification letter to be sent to owners is enclosed with this report.

Sec. 573.6 (c)(11) – The Manufacturer's Campaign Number:

Mazda has assigned recall number 6211B to this action.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. G. Robertson", is written over the typed name.

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