



Defect Information Report

Maserati S.p.A. (Maserati) has determined that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Model Year 2009 Maserati Granturismo and Quattroporte vehicles. Maserati North America, Inc. (MNA) is providing this notification to your office in accordance with **49 C.F.R. Part 573**.

Maserati has determined that certain GranTurismo and Quattroporte models, specifically, vehicles starting with production number (VIN) ZAMFK39A790041624 (Assembly Number: 42685) through production number (VIN) ZAMFK39A890043849 (Assembly Number: 44954) on Quattroporte models, and vehicles starting with production number (VIN) ZAMGJ45AX80041912 (Assembly Number: 42700) through production number (VIN) ZAMGJ45A390044264 (Assembly Number: 44956) on Granturismo models, were manufactured with an incorrect machining parameter utilized for the rear suspension wheel alignment toe-in tie-rods threaded portion which do not meet strength and durability specifications (through the vehicle's full useful life). Continued use of a vehicle containing these tie-rods, especially operating the vehicle on rough roads (i.e. pot holes), may lead to tie-rod damage, and eventual fatigue failure of the tie-rod which may lead to a loss of vehicle control and an accident.

As noted below, a total of **763** vehicles are in the hands of customers, and thus this notification relates only to those vehicles.

The information – to the extent currently available to Maserati – that is required by your regulation follows:

1. Manufacturer's Name and Address.

Maserati North America, Inc.
250 Sylvan Avenue
Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632

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2. Vehicle Involved in this Notification.

The affected vehicles consist of certain Model Year 2009 Maserati Quattroporte and Granturismo vehicles. The VIN range into which the vehicles fall starts with VIN: ZAMFK39A790041624 (Assembly Number 42685) and ends with VIN: ZAMFK39A890043849 (Assembly Number 44954) on Quattroporte models. On Granturismo models the VIN range into which the vehicles fall starts with VIN: ZAMGJ45AX80041912 (Assembly Number 42700) and ends with VIN: ZAMGJ45A390044264. Production dates of affected vehicles are between July 3, 2008 & September 30, 2008, respectively.

3. Total Number of Vehicles.

The total population of Model Year 2009 Maserati Quattroporte and Granturismo vehicles in the affected VIN range is 763 in customer hands.

4. Approximate percentage of vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect.

Within the affected VIN range, potentially all units contain the defect.

5. Description of the Defect.

The defect involves the rear suspension tie-rods for toe-in, which may fail due to fatigue through vehicle use on rough roads (i.e., pot holes).

6. Chronology of Events leading to this Defect Determination.

During our routine internal monitoring processes, for our suppliers on safety-related parts, Maserati S.p.A. recently received notification from field reports concerning the rear suspension toe in tie rods. Subsequently, Maserati began an in-depth analysis of the rear suspension wheel alignment toe in tie rods.

As a result of our analysis, it was determined that a dimensional anomaly existed on the threaded portion of the tie rod which could reduce the required full useful life of the component. The dimensional anomaly was attributed, through the assistance of our supplier, to a specific and identifiable batch of parts, to an incorrect machining parameter utilized for the toe in tie rod.

Therefore, Maserati has decided to recall all the potentially affected vehicles which may have been produced using parts from this batch.

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7. Description of Proposed Remedy.

The remedy for the affected vehicles involves the replacement of the rear suspension right-side and left-side tie-rods, and a kit to be installed onto the vehicles and a wheel alignment performed. Tie-rod replacement, kit installation and wheel alignment will be performed free of charge to the vehicle owner, and will require approximately 3.40 hours to complete.

Maserati anticipates that an adequate inventory of replacement tie-rod kits will be available in approximately 30 days. All customers for whom this remedy is required and our dealers will receive notification of the remedy campaign. Maserati North America, Inc. intends to send customer notification letters to each owner of an affected vehicle by mail to inform the customer of the problem and advise the customer to contact their local authorized Maserati Dealer to schedule an appointment to repair the affected vehicle.

Because all of the vehicles that potentially have the defect were manufactured between July 3, 2008 and September 30, 2008, all of the affected vehicles are currently under warranty, and no customers would have incurred any costs to obtain a pre-notification remedy of this defect. Accordingly, MNA requests that it be excused from the requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 573.6(c)(8), 573.13, and 577.11 to provide notification to owners that they may be eligible for reimbursement of the costs of obtaining a pre-notification remedy of this defect. 49 C.F.R. § 573.13(d) permits manufacturers to “exclude reimbursement for costs incurred within the period during which the manufacturer’s original or extended warranty would have provided for a free repair of the problem addressed by the recall, without any payment by the consumer.” In addition, 49 C.F.R. § 577.11(e) contemplates that, upon written request by the manufacturer, NHTSA may determine that the manufacturer is not required to provide notification concerning reimbursement for pre-notification remedies because all covered vehicles are under warranty. Thus, MNA’s request to be excused from the obligation of specifying a reimbursement program in this report, and of providing notification to owners concerning it, is consistent with the regulations governing reimbursement for pre-notification remedies

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8. Campaign Schedule and Draft Notices.

MNA expects to begin customer notification within 30 days as well as additional dealer materials including a draft copy of the recall campaign instruction and information bulletin in the attached Recall Campaign document. MNA has assigned this campaign an internal number: **196**.

9. Representative Copies of Notifications that Relate to the Defect and Have Been Sent to More than One Manufacturer, Distributor, Dealer, or Purchaser.

There are no notices, bulletins or other communications that relate directly to the defect and have been sent by MNA to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser.

Should you have questions concerning this submission, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 201-816-2638.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel E. Doku".

Daniel Doku
Manager, Certification & Compliance
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