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ISUZU
DET-12-087

12V-306
(5 Pages)

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: 49 CFR Part 573
MY 1998-2000 Isuzu Amigo & MY 2001-2002 Isuzu Rodeo Sport:
Excessive corrosion affecting rear suspension lower link brackets

Dear Ms. Lewis:

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.

As NHTSA is aware, in September 2010, Isuzu notified the agency that it would 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 MY 1998-2002 Isuzu Rodeo, Isuzu Axiom, and Honda Passport vehicles, and to address customer concerns about that corrosion.

Based on information received by Isuzu following that decision, the company has decided to conduct a similar recall with respect to corrosion affecting the forward mounting points of the rear suspension lower link brackets in certain short-wheel-base models, specifically MY 1998-2000 Isuzu Amigo and MY 2001-2002 Rodeo Sport vehicles. Under this recall, Isuzu will provide a free remedy for covered vehicles that are 10 years old or less. In addition as was the case in Recall 10V-436, Isuzu will voluntarily offer a free remedy for vehicles that are more than ten years old as of the date of this letter, provided that such vehicles are presented to an Isuzu service facility no later than twelve (12) months after the original date of mailing of the owner notification letter.

To avoid any potential confusion on the part of vehicle owners, Isuzu wishes to make it clear that, as with Recall 10V-436, this recall only addresses excessive corrosion in the vicinity of the forward mounting point brackets for the left or right rear suspension lower link in the covered vehicles. It does not address corrosion that may exist in other parts of the vehicle, and Isuzu will not provide a free remedy for any such corrosion.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery A. Marsee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

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. Distributor: Isuzu Motors America, LLC
1400 South Douglass Road, Suite 100
Anaheim, CA 92806

573.6(c) (2):

Certain MY 1998-2000 Isuzu Amigo and MY 2001-2002 Rodeo 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.” VIN range and manufacture date range are shown in the attachment.

573.6(c) (2), (3), (4):

Information is shown in the attachment.

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):

At the time that Isuzu decided to conduct Recall 10V-436, which covered certain Rodeo, Axiom and Honda Passport vehicles (referred to as “long-wheel-base” or “LWB” models), there were hardly any complaints of similar corrosion in the Rodeo Sport or Amigo models (referred to as “short-wheel-base” or “SWB” models). However, in late October 2011, Isuzu received a field report regarding this issue in a SWB model. After reviewing this field report, in early November 2011, Isuzu decided to initiate an investigation into the issue. This included the purchase of two complaint vehicles in late 2011, which were inspected in the United States and then shipped to Japan for structural and metallurgical analysis.

The complaint rate for the SWB models is lower than the rate for the LWB models was at the time of the recall, and the SWB models have been on the road longer than the LWB models were as of that time; nevertheless, based on the results of our investigation, and to address the concerns of our customers, on June 25, 2012, Isuzu Motors decided that a voluntary recall should be conducted in essentially the same manner as Recall 10V-436 was conducted.

573.6(c) (8):

Isuzu will provide written notification to each owner of a covered 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 forward mounting point of the rear suspension lower link bracket area to determine if corrosion is present in the area. For vehicles in which corrosion has damaged that area of the rear suspension lower link bracket and affected its connection to the vehicle's frame, reinforcement brackets 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 the future.

In the rare event the corrosion in the vicinity of the subject brackets is so severe that a reinforcement bracket cannot be installed or would not satisfactorily remedy the excessive corrosion in the area of the rear suspension lower link bracket, Isuzu will offer to repurchase the vehicle for an amount based on the Kelley Blue Book "Private Party" price. By definition, the actual price offered to individual vehicle owners will vary, depending on the model year of the vehicle, its mileage, its trim level, and its overall condition (excluding the corrosion that may exist in the area of the forward mounting points of the rear suspension lower link brackets).

The remedy will be provided free of charge for vehicles that are ten years old or less. As was the case in Recall 10V-436, for vehicles that are more than ten years old as of the date of this letter, which are not entitled to a free remedy under the statute, Isuzu will voluntarily offer the same remedy, but it will be provided at no charge only if the vehicle is presented to an Isuzu service facility no later than twelve (12) months after the original date of mailing of the owner notification letter.

Isuzu plans to begin owner notification in late July 2012.

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 in the near future.

ATTACHMENT 1

573.6(c)(2),(3),(4):

U.S. Vehicles Potentially Affected, by Make, Model, Model Year, and Date of Manufacture

MAKE	MODEL SERIES	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER INVOLVED	INCLUSIVE MANUFACTURING DATES		VIN RANGE* (LAST 8 DIGITS)	ESTIMATE NUMBER WITH CONDITION
				FROM	TO		
Isuzu	Amigo	1998	3,245	01/12/1998	08/11/1998	W4327876 ~ W4376648	Unknown
		1999	3,780	07/31/1998	10/15/1999	X4300042 ~ X4382777	
		2000	892	10/04/1999	07/21/2000	Y4300093 ~ Y4355464	
	Rodeo Sport	2001	1,678	08/07/2000	06/04/2001	14300080 ~ 14355395	
		2002	1,626	07/18/2001	08/28/2002	24300044 ~ 24341314	
		TOTAL	11,221				

* While all of the vehicles covered by this recall are within these VIN ranges, not all of the vehicles within these ranges are covered by this recall.