

November 25, 2013

Via Email: RMD.ODI@dot.gov

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

The following information is submitted in accordance with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect reporting regulations, 49 CFR § 573.6. This report relates to certain replacement fuel pumps.

1. Identification of the manufacturer, § 573.6(c)(1)

Airtex Products, LP

2. Identification of the Equipment, § 573.6(c)(2)

This report applies to certain aftermarket replacement fuel pump modules with model numbers E8598M; E8518M; E8600M; E8596M and E8597M that were manufactured on two days, July 26, 2013 and July 29, 2013. These model pumps are replacement equipment for certain Subaru vehicles as shown in the table below:

| | |
|--|--|
| E8598M | |
| 2006-04 Subaru Baja 2457 cc (2.5L) (DOHC) (Turbo) 4 | |
| E8518M | |
| 2003-01 Subaru Outback 2999 cc. (3.0L) 6 | |
| E8600M | |
| 2006-04 Subaru Baja 2457 cc (2.5L) (SOHC, Naturally Aspirated) 4 | |
| 2004 Subaru Legacy/Outback 2457 cc (2.5L) 4 | |
| E8596M | |
| 2003 Subaru Baja 2457 cc (2.5L) 4 | |
| 2003-00 Subaru Legacy/Outback 2457 cc (2.5L) 4 | |
| E8597M | |
| 2004 Subaru Outback 2999 cc (3.0L) 6 | |

3. Number of Items of Equipment Containing the Defect, § 573.6(c)(3),(4)

The non conforming fuel pumps that are the subject of this report were manufactured by Airtex on July 26, 2013 and July 29, 2013. Previously, Airtex purchased this model pump from another manufacturer. July 26, 2013 and July 29, 2013 are the only two days which Airtex manufactured the affected fuel pumps. In total, Airtex manufactured 505 units on these two production days. Airtex has determined that 100% of these pumps may be non-conforming.

4. Description of the defect and affected population, §§ 573.6(c)(4), (5)

Airtex has identified the following root cause of the non conformity. Airtex makes use of sonic welding to fashion certain plastic component parts. Airtex has determined that a poor sonic weld technique can cause fuel to leak from joint where a saddle tube joins the pump flange. See Figure 1. This non conformity was not detected during manufacturing because improper procedures were utilized during final product testing.

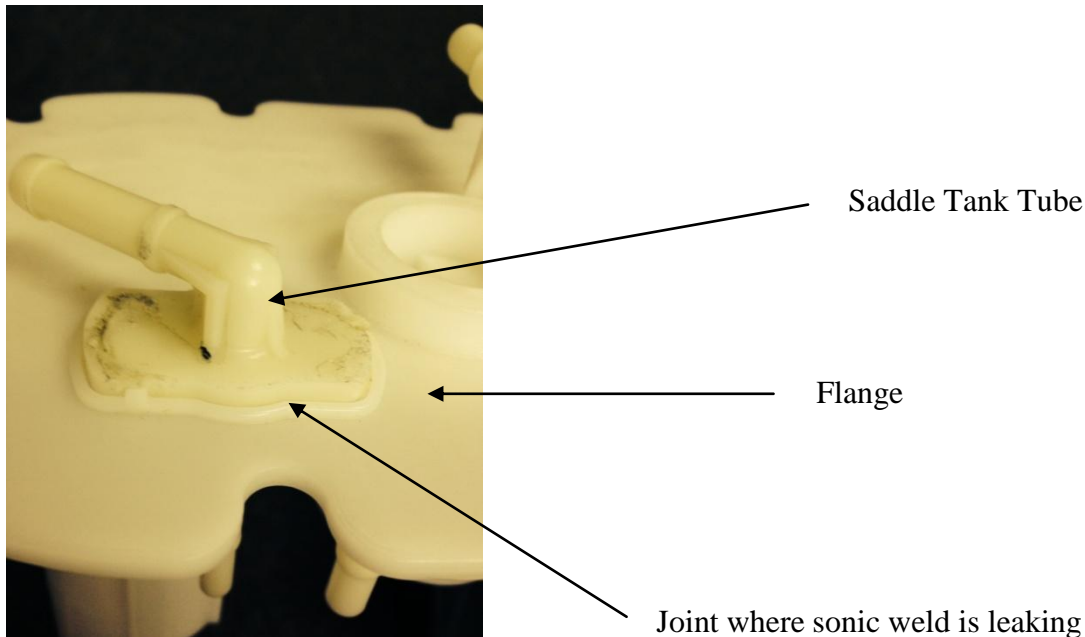


Figure 1

The defective joint may allow fuel to escape when the tank is full. To date, Airtex has received two field reports involving three modules from the field of leaks in installed pumps. Based on its investigation, Airtex believes that a non conforming pump could leak if installed.

Airtex has quarantined 105 non conforming pumps that were in its inventory. Thus, of the total 505 non conforming pumps that were manufactured, 397 pumps remain in the field. Of those 397 pumps, Airtex has not yet determined the number that are in its customers' inventory and the number that may have been installed.

5. Chronology of Events, § 573.6(c)(6)

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| November 15, 2013: | Airtex receives notice that two Model E8598M fuel pumps one E8518M fuel pump leaked following installation. |
| November 17, 2013 | Airtex commences its root cause investigation. |
| November 18, 2013 | Airtex stops shipping and quarantines its inventory. |
| November 22, 2013 | Airtex concludes its investigation. |
| November 22, 2013 | Airtex notifies its customers to quarantine their inventory of the fuel pumps and begins effort to recovery pumps from these customers. |

6. Description of the Remedy Program, §§ 573.6(c)(9)(10)

Of the total 505 non-confirming pumps that Airtex manufactured, 400 were shipped to Airtex customers, which include large, chain store automotive retailers and distributors who resell the pumps to local stores and mechanics (i.e. installers). Airtex has received two notices from installers, that describe three pump failures, and thus 397 non conforming pumps remain in the field, either in customers' inventory or installed in vehicles.

The remedy program will consist of no cost replacement of the non conforming pumps. Airtex will take all of the following steps to identify products in the field:

A. On November 22, 2013, Airtex began providing notice to its customers to quarantine pumps manufactured on July 26, 2013 and July 29, 2013 (with package date codes 303 and 313) that were in these customers' inventory. Airtex will replace potentially defective pumps with conforming pumps at no charge.

B. Airtex will attempt to identify professional installers who may have purchased non-conforming pumps. Airtex will individually notify these installers of the recall and remedy program by mail. Installers will be instructed to provide Airtex with contact information for customers who may have installed Defective Fuel Pumps. Airtex will also provide installers with instructions to inspect installed pumps, and if necessary, replace non-conforming pumps that may have been installed. Airtex will pay installers their usual and customary rates for inspecting or inspecting and replacing potentially defective units and will provide replacement fuel pumps at no cost.

C. Certain of Airtex's retail customers may have contact information for consumers that purchased non conforming pumps. Airtex will collect this information and send a letter directly to these consumers. If the consumer has not installed the fuel pump, Airtex will provide the consumers with a no-cost replacement and arrange for a return of the uninstalled pump at Airtex's expense. If the pump has been installed, Airtex will arrange for an inspection of the pump, and if necessary, a replacement of the pump. Airtex will pay the costs of inspection and replacement.

D. Airtex will post notice of this recall and available remedies on its website.

November 25, 2013

Page 4

7. Notification materials, § 577.11

Copies of the proposed consumer notification and the envelope are enclosed for your comment. Airtex is prepared to proceed with its notification program on or by January 2, 2014 subject to your approval of these communications and assignment of the campaign number.

* * *

Please provide the recall campaign number and direct all communications relating to this matter to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey R. Mathis". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jeffrey R. Mathis
Assistant General Counsel
UCI-FRAM Group
1900 West Field Court (4W-530)
Lake Forest, Illinois 60445
(847) 482-4482
Jeff.Mathis@uci-fram.com