

**Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

Kelly Schuler – (Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov)
Safety Recall Specialist
Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation Enforcement

May 29th 2013

Subject: Aston Martin Safety Related Recall Action – Throttle Pedal: RA- 03 - 0016 – All models manufactured from May 14th 2012 through April 10th 2013, except New Vanquish, Graz Manufactured Rapide and Cygnet.

Summary**Aston Martin Action**

Aston Martin is conducting a Safety Related Recall Action involving all models manufactured from May 14th 2012, through April 10th 2013, except Graz Manufactured Rapide, New Vanquish and Cygnet models.

Number of vehicles Involved

689 vehicles (498 registered plus 22 AMLNA Fleet and 169 at Ports or Dealers) in the USA and a further 2,143 vehicles outside the USA.

Affect on Vehicle Operation

If the throttle pedal arm breaks, the engine will return to idle speed in the same manner as taking the driver's foot off the accelerator. In this case the driver will be unable to maintain or increase engine speed or load.

Service Programme

Dealers will be instructed to replace the Throttle Pedal Assembly.

Attached is detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 – Defect and Non Compliance Information Report.

Should there be any questions regarding this notice, please feel free to contact me by e mail or phone using the details listed: chris.baker@astonmartin.com Tel: + 44 1926 644740 or in my absence, Steve Tiltman, Technical Service Manager: steve.tiltman@astonmartin.com Tel: +44 1926 644700. Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Chris E Baker
General Manager - Global After Sales Operations

ATTACHMENT

49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

SAFETY RELATED RECALL ACTION – RA- 03 - 0016 – Throttle Pedal Replacement

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Non Compliance Reports, Aston Martin submits the following information concerning a Safety Related Recall Action that it is voluntarily initiated.

Date this report was prepared on: 29th May 2013.

Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating Manufacturer of the vehicles being recalled:

Manufacturer: Aston Martin Lagonda Limited, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire CV35 0DB, UK

UK Contacts:

Chris E Baker – General Manager - Global After Sales Operations – Tel: +44 1926 644740
e mail: chris.baker@astonmartin.com

Steven J Tiltman – Technical Services Manager - Tel: + 44 1926 644700
e mail: steve.tiltman@astonmartin.com

Facsimile Number: +44 1926 644733

North America Importer: Aston Martin Lagonda of North America, 9920 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine CA 92618 USA

North America Contact:

Scott Morgan – Fixed Operations Manager - The Americas – Tel: 1 949 379 3104/949 292 3033
e mail: scott.morgan@astonmartin.com

573.6 (c) (2) – Potentially Affected Vehicles

Listed models manufactured from May 14 2012 through April 10th 2013, except New Vanquish, Graz Manufactured Rapide and Cygnet models. 2012 through 2014 Model Years:

<u>Model</u>	<u>Registered & AMNLA Fleet</u>	<u>Port & Dealer Un-Registered</u>	<u>Build Range</u>
• DB9 Coupe	69	25	06/12 - 04/13
• DB9 Volante	86	22	05/12 - 04/13
• DBS Coupe	14	0	06/12 – 09/12
• DBS Volante	17	1	05/12 – 09/12
• Virage Coupe	9	1	05/12 – 09/12
• Virage Volante	21	1	05/12 – 09/12
• V8 Vantage Coupe	68	38	05/12 – 04/13
• V8 Vantage Roadster	59	42	05/12 – 04/13
• V8 Vantage S Coupe	33	7	05/12 - 04/13
• V8 Vantage S Roadster	15	9	05/12 – 04/13
• V12 Vantage Coupe	34	9	05/12 – 12/12
• Rapide (Gaydon Manufactured)	53	10	06/12 – 01/13
• Rapide S Gaydon Manufactured	<u>42</u>	<u>4</u>	11/12 – 03/13
	520	169	

573.6 (c) (3) - - Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected

689 vehicles (498 registered plus 22 AMLNA Fleet and 169 at Ports or Dealers in the USA and a further 2143 vehicles outside the USA.

573.6 (c) (4) – Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Condition

100% of vehicles in the recall may be affected, although it’s unknown how many throttle pedal arms are likely to fail in use.

Describe how the Recall population was determined also the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture

An investigation into a report that a throttle pedal arm had fractured at a press event determined that a batch of throttle pedal arms had been made with a non-specified material.

Aston Martin working with our supplier, traced the dates that affected parts had been delivered to Aston Martin and used the in vehicle production starting May 14th 2012 and ending April 10th 2013. Correctly manufactured parts to the correct design specification have been used in vehicle production since April 11th 2013.

573.6 (c) (5) - - Describe the Defect

The throttle pedal arm breaks.

Describe the cause of the Defect

The second tier supplier to our throttle pedal manufacturer used a plastic material that was not in accordance with the Aston Martin design specification.

Describe the consequences of the Defect

Certain throttle pedal arms have broken off at the abutment to the main assembly. So far we have been unable to predict which parts will fail but we suspect the broken parts had been subjected to heavy use. If the throttle pedal arm breaks, the engine will return to idle in the same manner as taking the drivers foot off the accelerator. In this case, the driver will be unable to maintain or increase engine speed and load.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur

No prior warning would be apparent.

Component Supplier corporate name and address details

PVI - Precision Varionic International. Sensor House, Langley Road, Hillmead, Swindon SN5 5WB, England.

Identity of Supplier Representative

Contact: Mr John Penman – Quality Manager. Tel: + 44 (0) 1793 879879.

573.6 (c) (6) - Provide Chronology Events Determining the Defect

On the 18th March 2013 Aston Martin was informed that a throttle pedal arm had broken during a press event. The displaced throttle pedal arm was subsequently returned to Aston Martin and an internal Quality Investigation was instigated. Aston Martin immediately examined and tested the failed parts, as well as all incoming new throttle pedals arms, and found a variance in material from the design specification. A batch analysis established that incorrectly

manufactured parts had been delivered to our manufacturing facility from 14th May 2012. Aston Martin tested throttle pedal arms from a range of cars built before this date (going back to 2006) to confirm that they had been made to specification.

These findings culminated in an internal investigation to determine the root cause of the issue and its likely effects. A Critical Concerns Review Group (CCRG) meeting was convened on May 22nd 2013. It determined that the most likely cause was the supplier's use of the wrong material in a batch of parts that were subsequently used in production between May 14th 2012 and April 10th 2013. The CCRG meeting group has been unable to determine which or how many parts were likely to fail in use. Following further investigations, our Recall Committee met on May 23rd and 24th. It decided on May 24th, 2013 to conduct a Safety Recall of all vehicles fitted with these parts.

573.6 (c)(7) Identify test results and other data (in chronological order including key dates) on which the noncompliance was determined

N/A

573.6 (c) (8) – Identify the Remedy – Service Recall Acton

The remedy is to replace throttle pedal assemblies in the affected vehicles with parts made to the correct specification.

Aston Martin has an established Safety Related Recall Process in place to ensure that end user customers and Franchised Dealers are fully advised and reimbursed through our Warranty System. Recall Action document: RA-03-0016 provides the necessary details in this regard, inclusive of a repair process and repair time, additionally a Dealer Quarantine Notice and customer communications strategy. A draft copy of RA-03-0016 will follow when completed.

Mailings to customers will be facilitated using Aston Martin's own corporate CRM database, plus Dealer records from the VIN based customer files available. Additionally, POLK will be used if required.

The Aston Martin customer letter will accompany the RA-03-0016 Dealer documentation suite alerting all Aston Martin Dealers to immediately carry out this Safety Related Recall Action.

573.6 (c) (9) - Press Statement and Dealer/Owner Letters

Aston Martin does not plan to make a public statement concerning this Recall Action, but will provide a holding statement to satisfy any questions posed.

573.6 (c) (10) – Provide a schedule (with specific dates) to notify relevant parties of the Recall Action.

Recall Action timeline to be determined and advised separately.

573.6 (c) (11) – Provide final copies of all notices and communications in relation to the Recall Action to:

RMD.ODI@dot.gov for review prior to launching

Aston Martin has assigned Recall Number: **RA-03-0016** to this Recall Action. A copy of the documentation suite will follow shortly.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CE Baker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris E Baker
General Manager – Global After Sales Operations