October 23, 2015 **DET-15-181**

NHTSA Safety Recall DUE to NHTSA: 10/27/2015

Information must be submitted by the due date at NHTSA's recall portal https://map.safercar.gov/mportal/signin
Note: Cell entries over 2000 characters will have to entered as attachments

Vehicle Information 573.6 (c) (1) (2) (3) (4)

LINE	Model Year(s) *, Make*, Model*	Descriptive Information*	Beginning* Production Date (mm/dd/yyyy)	Ending * Production Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
1	MY 2006-2008 Isuzu NPR Gas NPR-HD Gas	Isuzu incomplete truck equipped with Tankcraft fuel tank part number 897378555Y or 897378556Y	March 16, 2005	August 13, 2008
2	MY 2006-2008 Chevrolet W3500 W4500	Isuzu-designed incomplete truck equipped with Tankcraft fuel tank part number 897378555Y or 897378556Y	March 16, 2005	August 13, 2008
3	MY 2006-2008 GMC W3500 W4500	Isuzu-designed incomplete truck equipped with Tankcraft fuel tank part number 897378555Y or 897378556Y	July 18, 2005	August 13, 2008

LINE 1 (Isuzu NPR Gas / NPR-HD Gas)

Type:		BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES
Body Style:		OTHER
Powertrain"		GASOLINE
VIN Range:	BEGIN	4KLB4B1U76J800002
VIN Range:	END	4KLC4J1N88J803095
SEQUENTIAL VINS	(Y/N)	NO

LINE 2 (Chevrolet W3500/W4500)

Type:		BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES
Body Style:		OTHER
Powertrain"		GASOLINE
VIN Range:	BEGIN	4KBB4B1UX6J800001
VIN Range:	END	4KBC4J1N48J803096
SEQUENTIAL VINS	(Y/N)	NO

LINE 3 (GMC W3500/W4500)

Type:		BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES
Body Style:		OTHER
Powertrain"		GASOLINE
VIN Range:	BEGIN	4KDB4B1U26J800016
VIN Range:	END	4KDC4J1NX8J803093
SEQUENTIAL VINS	(Y/N)	NO

Total Population

Number Potentially Involved	13671	Estimated Percentage of Involved With Defect	100%

Defect / Noncompliance Description 573.6 (c) (5)

Describe the defect or noncompliance*:
Certain fuel tanks installed in MY 2006-2008 Isuzu NPR gasoline trucks may be subject to premature corrosion on the external surface of the tanks, which if left unattended could allow fuel to leak. The fuel tanks may also be susceptible to peels at the seam weld on the tank. No known accidents, injuries or fires have been associated with these issues.
Describe the safety risk*:
Premature corrosion can lead to fuel leaks increasing the risk of a fire.
If a noncompliance, provide the applicable FMVSS:
N/A
If applicable, provide any further FMVSS affected:
N/A

Does this recall only affect products in certain geographic regions?	(Y/N)	No (See MFG comments below)

Manufacturer of Defective Component

If applicable, identify the manufacturer of the defective or noncompliant component.
If the manufacturer of the component is unknown, provide information for the company that supplied the subject component.

Company Name, Address:	Company Contact (Name, Position, Phone, email):
Tankcraft Corporation N2900 Foundry Road Darien, Wisconsin 53114	

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination 573.6 (c) (6) (7)

Describe the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision:

Isuzu first received a report of a leak in a subject fuel tank in April, 2013. Isuzu asked the supplier to analyze the root cause of the leak. The supplier's report, received in October, 2013, noted that the tank appeared to have been exposed to extreme conditions, leading to excessive corrosion on the external surface of the tank. The supplier's report made clear that the external material was industry standard and had proven robust in the field. The supplier further noted that there was corrosion along some welding and that the inside surface of the tank exhibited no corrosion.

Because the condition of the tank was not consistent with the fuel having leaked through the corrosion, Isuzu investigated the integrity of its seam welding. A third party laboratory retained by Isuzu found that there was some minimal peeling at the seam weld through which there was potential for fuel to leak. Further evaluation and testing found that the amount of fuel that could pass through such a peel was extremely small (an ounce or less) and that any such amount would evaporate before reaching the exhaust.

Isuzu received another fuel tank with a potential leak through the seam weld in September 2014 and then a third in March 2015. Isuzu proceeded to conduct a review of its warranty claims and technical information and reports and identified 12 claims that potentially were related to such a seam weld peel and/or leak.

In analyzing the data and a limited number of actual tanks, Isuzu noted the following. First, as indicated above, Isuzu determined that the amount of fuel that could escape through such a peel was very small, that there was no ignition source close to the location of the seam weld peels and that the extremely limited amount of fuel that could leak would evaporate before reaching the exhaust. Second, Isuzu found that the involved customers generally reported seeking service in response to the smell of gas. Third, Isuzu's review revealed that Isuzu had not (and still has not) received any reports of a substantial fuel leak, fire or other thermal event related to this concern. Isuzu did not, therefore, consider there to be an identified safety risk arising from the potential for the seam welding to peel. In noting, however, that similar situations had recently been addressed by manufacturers in the field with extended warranty campaigns, Isuzu began to consider taking that approach.

In working with the supplier to better understand its seam welding processes and to identify the vehicle population in the event an extended warranty campaign was warranted, Isuzu learned that the supplier had made various process improvements when moving to a new production facility in 2007. Isuzu also noted that no warranty claims or reports relating to peeling at the seam weld had been received regarding pre-Model Year 2006 vehicles. Accordingly, Isuzu's consideration focused on fuel tanks produced in 2006-2007 and installed in Model Year 2006-2008 vehicles.

In order to decide whether a warranty extension would be an appropriate action to address the seam weld concern it had identified, Isuzu conducted a broad review of data, which revealed that there was a significant rise in fuel tank replacement part sales during 2014 and 2015. This rise in part sales had not been associated with any increase in warranty claims or field reports.

Isuzu then conducted a comprehensive dealer survey to determine the reasons for the rise in part sales. The survey found that a significant number of fuel tanks were replaced due to rust on the external surface. Of 121 fuel tank replacements potentially related to corrosion or fuel leaks, Isuzu was able to determine the vehicle model year associated with 89 of them. Approximately 80% of those were replaced due to corrosion and the majority of them were within the vehicle model year 2006-2008 timeframe, with 2007 being the predominant model year vehicle involved. Model year 2009 (and later) vehicles were not similarly impacted.

Further investigation revealed that the supplier had made changes impacting paint durability in November 2005 and at the end of the first quarter of 2009. Based on analysis of the paint used on specific fuel tanks, the various quality improvements made by the supplier when it moved to a new production facility in 2007, and the general lack of part sales and evidence of corrosion impacting Model Year 2009 vehicles in the field, Isuzu believes that the fuel (gas) tanks in Model Year 2009 vehicles are not similarly susceptible to corrosion as are the tanks installed in the three preceding model year vehicles.

On October 20, 2015, Isuzu decided to conduct a safety recall to replace the fuel tanks installed in Model Year 2006-2008 gasoline trucks to address the potential for premature corrosion. Isuzu will actively monitor Model Year 2009 and later vehicles to ensure that there is no increase in part sales impacting those vehicles.

Identify the Remedy 573.6 (c) (8)

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacturer's plan for reimbursement:

Remedy:
Isuzu will replace the subject fuel tanks with new fuel tanks with more durable and higher quality coating.

Identify the Remedy 573.6 (c) (8)

Describe the defect/noncompliance remedy program, including the manufacturer's plan for reimbursement:

Reimbursement Plan:
Isuzu will provide reimbursement to vehicle owners who paid for a replacement fuel tank pursuant to Isuzu's standard reimbursement policy.
(Optional) Describe what distinguishes the remedy component from the recalled component:
(Optional) Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production:

Identify the Recall Schedule

Describe the recall schedule for notifications:	
Isuzu anticipates initiating the recall before the 60 day window, but with parts supply likely to be limited, an interim notification will be necessary for many and possibly all vehicle owners. Isuzu intends to begin the recall within the traditional salt belt, where the majority of fuel tank replacement parts sales have been reported, and to expand to a national recall as parts become available. Isuzu will provide specifics of the remedy program when available.	
Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date (mm/dd/yyyy):	TBD
Planned Dealer Notification End Date (mm/dd/yyyy):	TBD
Planned Owner Notification Begin Date (mm/dd/yyyy):	TBD
Planned Owner Notification End Date (mm/dd/yyyy):	TBD
Manufacturer's identification code for this recall:	NA

(Optional) Manufacturer's Comment to NHTSA Staff:

Although corrosion is focused in the traditional salt belt states and along the East Coast, the vehicles are subject to travel across the United States. In light of the potential for affected vehicles to have left the salt belt areas, Isuzu will conduct a national recall.