



Defect Information Report

Maserati S.p.A. has determined that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain model year 2014 Maserati Quattroporte GTS V8 vehicles. Maserati North America, Inc. (MNA) is providing this notification to your office in accordance with **49 C.F.R. Part 573**.

Maserati S.p.A. and MNA have determined that the above described vehicle's, were potentially manufactured with an inconsistent cable layout/installation of the alternator-starter motor protective electrical insulation sealing cap (at the starter motor), and an insufficient number of starter motor cable portion clamps/straps. Note that this is a one piece cable design that branches off to the alternator as well.

The alternator-starter motor electrical wiring harness cable is subjected to vehicle/engine vibrations. Through normal use, over time, and without the protective electrical insulation sealing cap in its proper position at the starter motor, and without additional cable securing clamps/straps, the alternator-starter motor cable attaching end may become progressively loose, with the potential to contact the surrounding surfaces of the engine block assembly. An incorrectly protected starter motor cable end, in conjunction with a loose cable, can lead to the alternator-starter motor cable damage and several electrical problems such as, intermittent electrical anomalies, no vehicle start and vehicle battery drain conditions. This can also include, in the most severe of cases, an engine compartment fire, potential for engine stalling and increase the risk of a crash.

As noted below, a total of **984** vehicles have been sold or leased to customers, and thus this notification relates only to those vehicles.

The information, to the extent currently available to MNA –follows:

1. *Manufacturer's Name and Address.*

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

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2. Identification of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect.

The affected vehicles consist of certain model year 2014 Maserati Quattroporte GTS V8 vehicles. Please refer to the attached draft bulletin which includes the affected VIN's.

3. Total Number of Vehicles.

The total population of model year 2014 Maserati Quattroporte GTS V8 vehicles potentially in the affected VIN range is **984** that have been sold or leased to customers.

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

Potentially 100% of all units within the affected VIN range may contain the defect.

5. Description of the Defect.

The defect has been identified as an inconsistent position of the protective electrical insulation sealing cap on the electrical connection end of the alternator-starter motor cable (at the starter motor end) and an insufficient number of starter motor cable portion securing clamps/straps. This wiring harness is directly connected to the battery positive terminal and provides electrical supply to the starter motor assembly. An incorrectly protected alternator-starter motor cable end (at the starter motor) in conjunction with a loose cable, can lead to alternator-starter motor cable damage and several electrical problems such as, intermittent electrical anomalies, no vehicle start and vehicle battery drain conditions. This can also include, in the most severe of cases, electrical contact sparks which can lead to an engine compartment fire, potential for engine stalling and increase the risk of a crash.

6. Chronology of Events leading to this Defect Determination.

Maserati S.p.A. and Maserati North America, Inc. received notification from one (1) field report and ultimately confirmed by the supplier's material/component analysis, subsequent identification and verification of the failure. Through an abundance of caution, Maserati is launching this recall campaign. Please note the following chronology of events:

- a. On March 11th 2015, Maserati opened an investigation as a result of one (1) field claim (report) on a customer's vehicle regarding a short to ground event located near the starter motor cable connection to the starter motor assembly.

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- b. The starter motor cable was shipped to the factory in Italy on May 11th 2015.
- c. The analysis performed by the supplier on June 5th through the 21st 2015 on the alternator-starter motor cable, and batch cables confirmed a continuous short to ground event had occurred at the starter motor cable end.
- d. An FMEA (failure mode engineering analysis) was performed in late-July and through August 2015 by Maserati and the supplier and identified that this failure mode was attributed to an incorrectly positioned starter motor cable end sealing cap, with the likelihood of the starter motor cable portion incorrectly positioned, and without an adequate amount of cable securing clamp/straps.
- e. In September 2015 an extensive analysis (assembly-line) was performed regarding this component since this was the same component part which was supplied for Recall 233 (NHTSA No. 13V-589, Alternator-starter motor cable) which provided an improved cable layout.
- f. On October 9, 2015 it was determined that a recall would be necessary to visually check all vehicles that were produced from engine assembly number 215345 (October 2013 production) to ensure starter motor cable layout is correct, has the appropriate number of securing clamps, and the protective sealing cap is properly located on the starter motor cable end.

7. Test Results and Other Information.

Supplier (Ferrari SpA, via Emilia Est. 1163 – Modena, Italy, telephone; +39 0536949111, contact person: Sabina Fasciolo, Sabina.fasciolo@ferrari.com) test results indicated an inconsistent position of the protective electrical insulation sealing cap on the electrical connection end of the starter motor cable and an insufficient number of starter motor cable securing clamps/straps.

8. Description of Proposed Remedy.

The remedy for the affected vehicles involves the visual check on all potential affected vehicles for the correct starter motor cable layout, the correct number of starter motor cable securing clamp/straps and the correct positioning of the starter motor cable protective sealing cap. If the layout is incorrect (based on the lack of the cable clamps/straps and the protective sleeve incorrectly positioned) the starter motor cable assembly will require replacement. The remedy procedure may require up to 3 hours to complete, and will be performed free of charge to the vehicle owner.

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All customers for whom this remedy is required, and our dealers, will receive notification of the remedy campaign by the second week in November 2015. MNA intends to send customer notification letters to each owner of an affected vehicle by certified 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. We will also be posting it on the Maserati USA website under "Services" by VIN.

Because all of the vehicles that potentially have the defect are 2014 models, 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.

9. *Campaign Schedule and Draft Notices.*

MNA expects to begin customer notification on the second week in November 2015 of this notification to NHTSA as well as additional dealer materials including a draft copy of the recall campaign instruction bulletin. MNA has assigned this campaign an internal Maserati number of **279**.

10. *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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel E. Doku".

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