



Defect Information Report

Maserati S.p.A. has determined that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in model years 2014 and 2015 Maserati Quattroporte and Ghibli 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 vehicles were manufactured with fuel lines that may weep or leak fuel, as a result of an assembly process used by the supplier during fuel line production and assembly. Potential fuel leaks may occur at any location along the fuel line due to the introduction of foreign particles between the metal fuel line and plastic fuel line during the connection process (due to the supplier's insufficient cleaning process of the fuel line), causing scratches on the plastic fuel line portion. A weeping or leaking fuel line, over time, and in the worst case scenario, can lead to a fire in the engine compartment or underneath the vehicle.

As noted below, a total of 10,879 model year 2014 and 2015 Quattroporte and Ghibli vehicles with this defect have been sold and leased to customers, and thus this notification relates 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

2. **Identification of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect.**

The affected vehicles consist of model year 2014 and 2015 Maserati Quattroporte and Ghibli vehicles. A draft bulletin which includes the affected VIN's will be supplied when available.

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3. Total Number of Vehicles.

The total population of model year 2014 and 2015 Maserati Quattroporte and Ghibli vehicles potentially in the affected VIN range is 10,879.

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 fuel weepage/leakage at the fuel line quick connectors, due to excessive peeling of the plastic fuel line end during the preliminary phase before the fuel line quick connector is assembled onto the fuel line. However, potential fuel leaks may occur at any location along the fuel line due to the introduction of foreign particles between the metal fuel line and plastic fuel line during the connection process (due to the supplier's insufficient cleaning process of the fuel line), causing scratches on the plastic fuel line portion. A weeping or leaking fuel line, over time, and in the worst case scenario, can lead to a fire in the engine compartment or underneath the vehicle.

6. Chronology of Events leading to this Defect Determination.

Please note the following chronology of events:

- a. On February 2, 2016, Maserati opened an investigation as a result of seven (7) cases from the field regarding fuel leakage.
- b. On February 15, 2016, Maserati informed the supplier (Dytech) regarding the issue, and in parallel, requested the claimed components from the field for analysis.
- c. On March 1, 2016, five (5) fuel lines were shipped to Dytech for their analysis.
- d. On March 23, 2016 the supplier (Dytech) communicated to Maserati that the potential failure was possibly due to an assembly process deviation, and identified the affected period and component numbers involved.
- e. In parallel, Maserati continued to monitor the claims from the field, and determined that the affected period identified by the supplier (Dytech) was not inclusive of all returned components and that further investigation/analysis was required and ordered.
- f. Further analysis on the components returned from the field between April and July 2016 led Maserati to extend the affected period back to August 2014 (clean point after August 31, 2014 production), when the supplier originally improved the control of process following Maserati supplier quality periodical inspections (as identified by Maserati).

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- g. In September 2016, Maserati defined a first proposal for a service solution that included a special fuel line with additional segmentation to guarantee safe and repeatable maintenance (cleaning) process during component to vehicle assembly. To this end, validation tests were ordered and performed between September and November of 2016.
- h. In December 2016, fuel lines tested were fully analyzed and inspected with positive results.
- i. On January 12, 2017 Maserati decided to proceed with a safety recall action.

7. Test Results and Other Information.

No further tests performed.

8. Description of Proposed Remedy.

The proposed remedy is a new fuel line installed onto the affected vehicles. The remedy will be performed free of charge to the vehicle owner. The internal number we have assigned to this action is recall 339.

Maserati anticipates having the parts available for implementation in February, 2017. Customer notification letters will be sent to all affected customers within 30 days. All customers for whom this remedy is required, and our dealers, will receive notification of the remedy campaign. MNA intends to send customer notification letters to each owner of an affected vehicle by first-class 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 "Shopping Tools" recall by VIN. Because all of the vehicles that potentially have the defect are 2014 or 2015 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,

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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.

Maserati expects to launch the recall within 30 days 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 **339**.

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.

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".

Daniel Doku
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