

Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination

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Describe the chronology of events leading up to the defect decision or test data for the noncompliance decision: (2000)

Isuzu received a report in July, 2016 and opened an investigation. The driver stated that he passed a vehicle at highway speeds and then expected the vehicle to decelerate naturally, which did not happen. The driver depressed the brake, brought the vehicle to a safe stop and had it towed. In August, 2016, Isuzu received a warranty claim also noting a "loose throttle pedal." Both reports related to Model Year 2015 N-Series Gas (N-Gas) vehicles. Although Isuzu has not yet determined root cause, investigation to date has found that the accelerator pedal may, in rare cases, be susceptible to lateral force beyond the design intent.

Isuzu additionally reconsidered investigations into three prior reports (two from 2015 and one from 2016) involving N-Gas vehicles (one MY 2014, one MY 2015 and one MY 2016). None of those reported incidents had been found to give rise to a potential trend. One involved excessive deformation of the bracket which supports the pedal, another was found to be missing a fastener in the pedal assembly, and for the third the incident the reported statements were inconsistent with Isuzu's engineering analysis.

On October 25, 2016, Isuzu decided to conduct a safety recall to address the potential for excessive lateral extension that can allow the accelerator pedal to catch below the stopper bolt. Isuzu included each of the Model Years for which the same or similar issues have been reported, Model Years 2014-2016. Given the length of time that previous model years had been in the field, Isuzu did not believe the condition existed in prior model year vehicles. Isuzu submitted a Defect Information Report and commenced the recall.

On April 10, 2017, Isuzu learned of a report of an apparently similar incident involving a MY 2012 vehicle. Isuzu initiated an investigation to determine whether the incident involves the same conditions as that involved in the existing recall. Isuzu received and analyzed the returned parts and determined that the incident involved the same condition. On May 10, 2017, Isuzu decided to expand the recall to cover all vehicles containing this accelerator design. This additional recall will cover N-Gas vehicles in Model Years 2008-2009 and Model Years 2012-2013. No N-Gas vehicles were produced in Model Years 2010 and 2011.