



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 8, 2019

Mr. David Robertson
Group Manager, Product Development Group 1
Mazda North American Operations
1025 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20036

NEF-150JK
18V-402

Subject: Passenger Frontal Air Bag Inflator May Explode

Dear Mr. Robertson:

This letter serves to acknowledge Mazda North American Operations's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

MAZDA/MAZDA6/2003-2008
MAZDA/MAZDASPEED6/2006-2007
MAZDA/MPV/2004-2006
MAZDA/RX-8/2004-2011

Mfr's Report Date: June 24, 2019

NHTSA Campaign Number: 18V-402

Components:

AIR BAGS:PASSENGER SIDE FRONTAL

Potential Number of Units Affected: 308,738

Problem Description:

Mazda North America Operations (Mazda) is recalling certain 2003-2008 Mazda6, 2006-2007 Mazdaspeed6 and 2004 MPV vehicles nationwide. Mazda is also recalling 2005-2006 MPV vehicles in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan), and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

On July 9, 2019 this recall was expanded to include certain 2004-2011 RX-8 vehicles that were previously recalled under 16V-354 but have not yet been repaired.

These vehicles are equipped with certain air bag inflators assembled as part of the passenger frontal air bag modules, and used as original equipment or replacement equipment. In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the passenger frontal air bag, these passenger air bag inflators may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to absolute humidity and temperature cycling.

Consequence:

An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.



Remedy:

Mazda will notify owners, and dealers will replace the front passenger air bag inflator with an alternate inflator, free of charge. The recall began July 6, 2018. Mailing to the affected RX-8 owners will begin July 9, 2019. Owners may contact Mazda customer service at 1-800-222-5500, option 4. Mazda's number for this recall is 2618F. Note: With the addition of the RX-8 vehicles, this recall fully supersedes recall 16V354.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

We have received Mazda's proposed owner notification letter and have approved it for distribution.

Because of the late addition of the RX-8 vehicles, we expect Mazda to file six quarterly recall completion rate reports from the release of the recall to those owners.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Your contact for this recall will be Jennifer Kruger who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-2461, or by email at jennifer.kruger@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Joshua Neff
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement