



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, Environmental, Safety and Powertrain Engineering  
Mazda North American Operations  
1025 Connecticut Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

NEF-150JK  
18V-404

**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/MPV/2005-2006  
MAZDA/RX-8/2005-2009

**Mfr's Report Date:** June 24, 2019

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 18V-404

**Components:**

AIR BAGS:PASSENGER SIDE FRONTAL

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 4,179

**Problem Description:**

Mazda North America Operations (Mazda) is recalling certain 2005-2006 Mazda MPV vehicles sold, or ever registered, in the states of Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

On July 9, 2019 this recall was expanded to include certain 2005-2009 RX-8 vehicles that were previously recalled under 17V-011 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 used as original equipment or replacement equipment. In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the passenger frontal air bag, these 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 metal fragments striking the vehicle 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 for MPV vehicles. The recall is expected to begin July 9, 2019 for RX-8 vehicles. 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 17V-011.

**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](http://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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

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](mailto:jennifer.kruger@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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