



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

June 25, 2015

Mr. David Robertson  
Group Manager, Environmental, Safety and Powertrain Engineering  
Mazda North American Operations  
1025 Connecticut Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

NVS-215SM  
15V-382

**Subject:** Driver's Frontal Air Bag May Rupture

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/RX-8/2004-2008

**Mfr's Report Date:** June 17, 2015

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 15V-382

**Components:**

AIR BAGS:FRONTAL:DRIVER SIDE INFLATOR MODULE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 444,907

**Problem Description:**

Mazda North American Operations (Mazda) is recalling certain model year 2003-2008 Mazda6 vehicles manufactured May 29, 2002, to May 5, 2008, 2004-2008 RX-8 vehicles manufactured April 10, 2003, to February 18, 2008, and 2006-2007 Mazdaspeed6 vehicles manufactured August 4, 2005, to June 29, 2007. The affected vehicles are equipped with a dual-stage driver frontal air bag that may be susceptible to moisture intrusion and other factors, including manufacturing variability that, over time, could cause the inflator to rupture.

**Consequence:**

In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the driver's frontal air bag, the inflator could rupture with metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

**Remedy:**

Mazda will notify owners, and dealers will replace the driver's frontal air bag inflator, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact Mazda customer service at 1-800-222-5500. Mazda's number for this recall is 8215F. Note: The remedy for this recall is not yet available. In the meantime, Mazda will install a new production air bag inflator in these same vehicles under safety recall 15V-345. The interim-remedy air bag inflator will be of the same specification as the original air bag inflator to reduce the amount of time that the air bag inflator has been exposed to humidity. However, the interim air bag does not eliminate the long-term potential for rupture and will only be installed as a stop-gap measure until the newly designed air bag inflators

can be produced. Owners need to have their vehicle remedied under recall 15V-345 as soon as possible and, when the new air bag inflators are available, have their vehicles remedied again under this recall.

**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).

This recall was the subject of an engineering analysis, EA15-001, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, 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).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is required that owners be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

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 Sarah Mcshane who may be reached by phone at 202-366-7401, or by email at [sarah.mcshane@dot.gov](mailto:sarah.mcshane@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement