



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

January 14, 2009

MR. DANIEL DOKU
CERTIFICATION & COMPLIANCE
MASERATI NORTH AMERICA, INC.
250 SYLVAN AVENUE
ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS, NJ 07632

NVS-215paw
09V-001

SUBJECT: UPPER AND LOWER BALL JOINT NUTS

DEAR MR. DOKU:

This letter serves to acknowledge Maserati North America, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

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:

MASERATI/ALFA ROMEO/2008
MASERATI/GRAN TURISMO/2008
MASTERA/QUATTROPORTE/2005-2008

NHTSA Campaign Number: 09V-001

Mfg's Report Date: January 6, 2009

Components: SUSPENSION: FRONT: CONTROL ARM: LOWER BALL JOINT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 7,912

Summary:

MASERATI IS RECALLING 7,912 CERTAIN GRAN TURISMO, QUATTROPORTE, AND ALFA ROMEO 8C COMPETIZIONE ODEL VEHICLES. INCORRECTLY TORQUED UPPER AND LOWER BALL JOINT NUTS MAY CAUSE THE BALL JOINT NUTS TO LOOSEN.

Consequence:

IN TIME, THIS COULD LEAD TO NOISE, STEERING WHEEL VIBRATION, AND FAILURE OF THE BALL JOINT STUD RESULTING IN DAMAGE OR SEPARATION OF THE SUSPENSION ARM. THIS COULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF STEERING CAPABILITY, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT THE TORQUE OF THE FRONT/REAR UPPER AND LOWER BALL JOINT NUTS AND, IF NECESSARY, REPLACE THE SUSPENSION ARMS AND HUB CARRIER. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING FEBRUARY 2009. OWNERS MAY CONTACT MASERATI AT 1-201-816-2600.

Notes:

MASERATI RECALL NO. 183. CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6.

We have reviewed your proposed owner notification letter and it meets the requirements of Part 577.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

Please provide us with the beginning dates for the build date range of the vehicles affected by this recall.

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 contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at Patricia.wallace@dot.gov, Delia.lopez@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George H. Person".A small, handwritten signature or set of initials in black ink, possibly "GHP".

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement