

December 15, 2010

ISUZU
DET-10-132

Mr. Claude Harris
Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Part 573 Information Report;
MY 2006-2007 Isuzu N-Series and GMC/Chevrolet W-Series Vehicles
Equipped with 4H Engines

Dear Mr. Harris:

On behalf of Isuzu Motors Limited, Japan ("Isuzu Motors"), Isuzu Manufacturing Services of America, Inc. (collectively, "Isuzu") hereby submits this report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573 involving certain 2006 and 2007 model year Isuzu N-Series and GMC/Chevrolet W-Series diesel trucks equipped with 4H engines.

573.6 (c)(1)

Manufacturer: Isuzu Motors Limited, Japan

US Sales Companies: (a) Isuzu Commercial Truck of America, Inc.
(b) General Motors Corporation, Chevrolet & GMC Divisions

573.6 (c)(2) and (3):

The vehicles covered by this determination are identified in Attachment 1.

The condition described in this report relates to inadequate tightening of the bolt that connects the vehicle's engine lubrication oil pipe to the vacuum pump during the vehicle assembly process at Isuzu Motors' Fujisawa plant.

573.6 (c)(4):

Isuzu does not know what percentage of the vehicles identified in Attachment 1 actually contain the condition.

573.6 (c)(5):Summary:

Due to insufficient torque applied during the installation of the oil pipe bolt, engine lubrication oil may seep or leak from the packing seals at the vacuum pump. If the condition goes unnoticed, it is possible that the engine may seize.

Detailed description:

The engine lubrication oil pipe is connected to the vacuum pump by using a banjo fitting bolt with packing seals. Isuzu Motors believes that in some of the subject vehicles manufactured in the production period from December 5, 2006 to January 30, 2007, the oil pipe bolts were not tightened properly during the vehicle production process. If not adequately tightened, the bolt may loosen after prolonged vehicle operation, which can result in oil seepage or leakage from the packing seals. In general, as oil is lost, the oil warning lamp will illuminate, and there may be abnormal engine noise. However, if the problem is not addressed, in the worst case, the loss of oil can cause engine seizure. If the engine seizes while the vehicle is being driven, the vehicle may experience sudden deceleration leading to an increased risk of a crash.

573.6 (c)(6):

On January 7, 2008, Isuzu Motors received field information relating to a vehicle in Japan that the oil warning lamp was lit and that oil leakage was found at the area where the engine oil pipe is connected to the vacuum pump. Isuzu Motors investigated the returned failed parts, but no problem was found with the parts.

Additional similar field problems were reported in Japan over time, but none were received from any other country. Isuzu Motors continued to investigate the issue, including the design specification and the vehicles' production quality control history. However, Isuzu Motors could not determine what was causing the oil leakage.

As of October 2010, Isuzu Motors had received a total 27 field reports with respect to this issue in the subject vehicles. All of these reports involved vehicles sold in Japan, and there were none from other countries. All 27 of those vehicles were manufactured between December 5, 2006 and January 30, 2007. Based on the fact that there have been no problems reported on vehicles manufactured outside of that period and the fact that no problems have been identified with the parts themselves, Isuzu Motors has concluded that there was improper control of the tightening torque applied to the engine oil pipe bolt during that particular production period.

There have been no reports of crashes or of any injuries associated with this issue in Japan or elsewhere in the world. Moreover, the reported failure rate is relatively low (approximately 0.6 percent of the vehicles built during the above-referenced period that were sold in Japan, and approximately 0.2 percent based on world-wide sales). Nevertheless, because there is a possibility that the engine can seize while the vehicle is being operated, on December 8, 2010, Isuzu Motors decided to conduct a safety recall campaign in Japan. Although Isuzu Motors does not believe that this issue constitutes a safety-related defect under United States law, it decided to conduct a safety recall campaign in the United States as well.

573.6 (c)(8):

For all vehicles being recalled, the packing seals will be replaced with new ones, and the bolt will be tightened with a specified torque of 23.5 N-m.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 577.13, Isuzu will offer to provide reimbursement to owners, if any, who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for this problem prior to the date of owner notification.

Isuzu plans to begin owner notification in late January or early February 2011 and will provide a more detailed schedule to the agency under separate cover.

573.6 (c)(10):

A copy of a draft owner notification letter will be forwarded to NHTSA for review when it is available.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 734-582-9262 or Scott Crafard of my staff at 734-582-9250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery A. Marsee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Jeffery A. Marsee
Chief Representative
Emission and Safety
Isuzu Manufacturing Service of America, Inc.

Attachment

Attachment 1

573.6(c)(2) and (3):

U.S. Vehicles Potentially Affected, by Make, Model, Model Year, and Date of Manufacture

MAKE	MODEL SERIES	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER INVOLVED	INCLUSIVE MANUFACTURING DATES		OTHER DESCRIPTION INFORMATION TO PROPERLY IDENTIFY VEHICLES
				FROM	TO	
Isuzu	NPR / NQR / NRR	2006-2007	1,954	Dec. 5, 2006	Jan. 30, 2007	8 th VIN Position = 6
GMC	W3500 / W4500 / W5500	2006-2007	710	Dec. 5, 2006	Jan. 30, 2007	8 th VIN Position = 6
Chevrolet	W3500 / W4500 / W5500	2006-2007	328	Dec. 5, 2006	Jan. 30, 2007	8 th VIN Position = 6
		TOTAL	2,992			