

**Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

Kelly Schuler – (Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov)  
Safety Recall Specialist  
Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation Enforcement

October 1st 2012

**Subject:** Aston Martin Safety Related Recall Action: RA- 19 - 0015 – V12 Vantage  
Coupe – 2010/2012.5 Model Years – Front Axle TPMS Non Compliance (FMVSS138)

**Summary****Aston Martin Action**

Aston Martin is conducting a Safety Related Recall Action involving 2010/2012.5 Model Year V12 Vantage Coupe models.

**Number of vehicles Involved**

148 registered vehicles in the United States and Federated Territories, plus 21 un-registered vehicles to be covered by a Dealer Quarantine Notice.

**Affect on Vehicle Operation**

The TPMS System for North American under FMVSS138 is set to a threshold of 25% below the specified cold inflation pressure of c 37 PSI, this equates to c 27 PSI. With the incorrect threshold of 31% as has been installed in the affected cars, this equates to 25 PSI which is c 2.0 PSI below the threshold for the front axle tyres only.

**Service Programme**

Dealers will be instructed to re-programme the Software for the TPMS to ensure that the 25% threshold is installed.

Attached is detailed information required by the applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 – Defect and Non Compliance Information Report.

Should there be any questions regarding this notice, please feel free to contact me by e mail or phone using the details listed: [chris.baker@astonmartin.com](mailto:chris.baker@astonmartin.com) Tel: + 44 1926 644740 or in my absence, Steve Tiltman, Technical Service Manager: [steve.tiltman@astonmartin.com](mailto:steve.tiltman@astonmartin.com) Tel: +44 1926 644700.

Yours sincerely



Chris E Baker  
General Manager - Global After Sales Operations

ATTACHMENT

**49 CFR Part 573 – DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT**

**SAFETY RELATED RECALL ACTION – RA- 19 - 0015 – 2010/2102.5 Model Year V12 Vantage  
Coupe**

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Non Compliance Reports, Aston Martin submits the following information concerning a Safety Related Recall Action that it is voluntarily initiated.

**Date this report was prepared on:** October 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

**Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating Manufacturer of the vehicles being recalled:**

**Manufacturer:** Aston Martin Lagonda Limited, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire CV35 0DB, UK

UK contacts:

Chris E Baker – General Manager - Global After Sales Operations – Tel: +44 1926 644740  
e mail: [chris.baker@astonmartin.com](mailto:chris.baker@astonmartin.com)

Steven J Tiltman – Technical Services Manager - Tel: + 44 1926 644700  
e mail: [steve.tiltman@astonmartin.com](mailto:steve.tiltman@astonmartin.com)

Facsimile Number: +44 1926 644733

**North America Importer:** Aston Martin Lagonda of North America, 9920 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine CA 92618 USA

North America contact:

Scott Morgan – After Sales Market Manager - The Americas – Tel: 1 949 379 3104/949 292 3033  
e mail: [scott.morgan@astonmartin.com](mailto:scott.morgan@astonmartin.com)

### **573.6 (c) (2) – Potentially Affected Vehicles**

Aston Martin V12 Vantage Coupe Sport Cars manufactured between 2009 through 2012. Cars listed in this range to be re-programmed on the front axle road wheels.

V12 Vantage Coupe Range: Chassis: S00001 to S01115

### **573.6 (c) (3) - - Estimated Population of Vehicles Potentially Affected**

1098 globally, of which 169 vehicles are based in the United States and Federated Territories and subject to (FMVSS138). Of the 169 cars in North America, 21 remain un-registered so will be subject to a Dealer Quarantine Notice.

### **573.6 (c) (4) – Estimated Percentage of Affected Vehicles with the Condition**

100%

### **Describe how the Recall population was determined also the basis for the beginning final dates of manufacture**

During a routine exercise within the Manufacturing area to install a new Bar Coding System at the Smartire Programming Station, it was discovered that V8 Vantage derivative TPMS Software had been incorrectly loaded into V12 Vantage Coupe vehicles, affecting the front axle only.

### **573.6 (c) (5) - - Describe the Defect**

The TPMS on the front axle only has been programmed with Software to the wrong compliance threshold for FMVSS138.

### **Describe the cause of the Defect**

The TPMS on the front axle only has a threshold of 31% as opposed to the correct threshold of 25%.

### **Describe the consequences of the Defect**

In the event of tyre deflation on tyres installed on the front axle of V12 Vantage Coupe vehicles, the air pressure would need to deflate from c 37 PSI to c 25 PSI, as opposed to the correct c 27 PSI threshold which results in a 2.0 PSI variance.

**Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur**

Slightly higher steering input would be felt when manoeuvring the car.

**Component Supplier corporate name and address details**

Aston Martin – Software re-flash only. Aston Martin Diagnostic System (AMDS) and a Smartire Tool - Part Number: 4G43-43-112113.

**Identity of Supplier Representative**

Aston Martin – Steve Tiltman – Technical Service Manager

**573.6 (c) (6) - Provide Chronology Events Determining the Defect**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2012, during a routine exercise carried out within the Manufacturing area to install a new Bar Coding System at the Smartire TPMS Programming Station, it was discovered that V8 Vantage TPMS Software had been wrongly loaded into V12 Vantage vehicles affecting the front axle only calibration threshold.

This alert culminated in an internal investigation to identify the root cause of the issue leading to a Critical Concerns Review Group (CCRG) being convened on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2012. Following further investigations a second Critical Concerns Review Group meeting was held on September 28<sup>th</sup>, immediately followed by a Recall Committee Meeting, during which time it was agreed to alert NHTSA and Recall the affected vehicles under the non compliance with FMVSS138.

**573.6 (c)(7) Identify test results and other data (in chronological order including key dates) on which the noncompliance was determined**

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of September 2012, during a routine exercise carried out within the Manufacturing area to install a new Bar Coding System at the Smartire TPMS Programming Station, it was discovered that V8 Vantage TPMS Software had been wrongly loaded into V12 Vantage vehicles affecting the front axle only calibration threshold. Since that time, the issue has been fully rectified in-plant.

**573.6 (c) (8) – Identify the Remedy – Service Recall Acton**

Aston Martin has an established Safety Related Recall process in place to ensure that end user customers and Franchised Dealers are fully advised and reimbursed through our Warranty System. Recall Action document: RA-19-0015 provides the necessary details in this regard, inclusive of a repair process with revised Software; the necessary Special Tool, also the Dealer

Quarantine Notice Action and customer communications strategy. A draft copy of RA-19-0015 will follow when completed.

Dealer mailings to customers will be facilitated using Aston Martin's own corporate database, plus Dealer records from the VIN based customer data.

The Aston Martin customer letter will accompany the RA-19-0015 Dealer documentation suite alerting all Dealers to immediately carry out this Safety Related Non-Compliance Recall Action.

**573.6 (c) (9) - Press Statement and Dealer/Owner Letters**

Aston Martin does not plan to make a public statement concerning this action but will provide a holding statement to satisfy any questions posed.

**573.6 (c) (10) – Provide a schedule (with specific dates) to notify relevant parties of the Recall Action.**

Recall timeline to be determined and advised separately.

**573.6 (c) (11) – Provide final copies of all notices and communications in relation to the Recall Action to:**

**[RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov) for review prior to launching**

Aston Martin has assigned Recall Number: **RA- 19 - 0015** to this Recall Action. A copy of the documentation suite will follow shortly.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris E Baker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris E Baker  
General Manager – Global After Sales Operations