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ISUZU

DET-13-105

June 19, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
Room: W48-203
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Subject: Part 573 Defect Information Report;
2001 - 2013 Isuzu N-Series,
2001 - 2010 Chevrolet/GMC W-Series
2001 - 2004 Isuzu FRR
2001 - 2004 Chevrolet/GMC WT5500
Equipped with an Optional Extension Cord for Oil Pan Heater RPO code IG3

Dear Ms. Lewis:

On behalf of Isuzu Motors Limited, Japan ("Isuzu Motors"), Isuzu Manufacturing Services of America, Inc. (collectively, "Isuzu") hereby submits this Defect Information Report pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573 involving certain MY 2001 - 2013 Isuzu N-Series, 2001 - 2010 Chevrolet/GMC W-Series and 2001 - 2004 Isuzu FRR/ 2001-2004 Chevrolet/GMC WT5500 trucks equipped with an optional extension cord connected to oil pan heater RPO code IG3.

The detailed information required by applicable portions of 49 CFR Part 573 is attached. If you have any questions, please contact me at 734-582-9262.

Sincerely,



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

Attachment

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

573.6(c)(1):

Manufacturer: Isuzu Motors Limited
U.S. Distributor: Isuzu Commercial Truck of America, Inc.

573.6(c) (2), (3), (4):

Subject vehicle information is provided in Attachment 1.

Component Supplier: Phillips Temro
Component: Extension cord

573.6(c)(5):

The subject vehicles may have been equipped at the port with optional oil pan heaters. Installation was conducted per the directions of Isuzu Commercial Truck of America, Inc. (and its predecessor in interest). The installation included connecting an extension cord to the oil pan heater plug and securing the cord to the exterior of the vehicle.

Isuzu recently learned that over time, dust, dirt and moisture may collect at the contact point between the oil pan heater plug and the extension cord causing a carbon tracking phenomenon. This condition may cause overheating of the extension cord, which could melt the oil pan heater plug and/or block heater plug (if equipped), producing odor and smoke and result in an increased risk of fire.

573.6(c)(6):

In April, 2013, Isuzu received a report from the Canadian market of a fire occurring outside the vehicle cab. To Isuzu's knowledge, no similar incidents have occurred in the U.S. market. Isuzu commenced an investigation, including examining the vehicle in Canada. Although the vehicle had already been repaired, Isuzu determined that the plugs had been damaged during the event. Isuzu also found that the vehicle had been equipped with an extension cord that was affixed to the outside of the vehicle at the right side rear cab mount. Isuzu's investigation determined that continued exposure of the cord to the elements could result in a carbon tracking phenomenon due to the collection of dust, dirt and moisture at the contact point between the oil pan heater plug and the extension cord. Installation at the port affixing the extension cords to the vehicle exterior could not have begun prior to model year 2001, although it is unlikely that vehicles prior to model year 2004 were affected.

Isuzu has concluded that although there is no defect in the subject vehicles or subject extension cords themselves, the connection of the cord to the oil pan heater plug combined with the installation of the cord on the outside of the subject vehicles increases the possibility of the carbon tracking phenomenon manifesting itself and causing a fire.

On June 14, 2013, Isuzu decided that the installation of the extension cords to the outside of the subject vehicles constitutes a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, and made a determination to conduct a safety recall. Although it is unlikely that vehicles prior to model year 2004 are affected, Isuzu is including vehicles between model year 2001 and 2004 in the recall out of an abundance of caution.

573.6(c)(8)(i):

All affected vehicles being recalled will be inspected and, if necessary, remedied free of charge to the vehicle owner. The extension cord connected to the optional oil pan heater plug will be disconnected, removed and discarded. The optional oil pan heater plug and engine block heater plug (if equipped) will be inspected for dust, dirt and carbon tracking and heat damage. Dust, dirt and evidence of carbon tracking will be cleaned off and new plug protective caps will be installed. Heat damaged plugs will be replaced with new parts. Customers who had extension cords installed on their vehicle will receive a new extension cord with a reminder to store it indoors when not in use.

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 and dealer notification in August 2013. A copy of a draft owner notification letter will be provided to the NHTSA for review when it is available.

ATTACHMENT 1
573.6 (c)(2),(3),(4)

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

MAKE	MODEL	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER INVOLVED	INCLUSIVE DATES OF VEHICLE MANUFACTURING*		ESTIMATE NUMBER WITH CONDITION
				FROM	TO	
Isuzu	N-Series	2001 - 2013	1,385	February 2000	November 2012	100%
Chevrolet/GMC	W-Series	2001 - 2010	336	February 2000	May 2009	100%
Isuzu	F-Series	2001 - 2004	25	February 2000	December 2003	100%
Chevrolet/GMC	WT-Series	2001 - 2004	28	April 2000	December 2003	100%
		TOTAL	1,774			

* While all of the vehicles covered by this recall are within these manufacturing date ranges, vehicles equipped with an Optional Extension Cord for Oil Pan Heater RPO code IG3 are only covered by this recall.