



ASTON MARTIN

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By Recall Mangement Division at 12:35 pm, Jul 14, 2014

July 14 2014

Nancy Lummen Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Recall Management Division
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Madam:

Defect Information Report

We are submitting the enclosed Defect Information Report in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 as it applies to a determination by Aston Martin that a motor vehicle safety defect exists in the printed circuit board of the transmission control switches contained in all DB9 and Rapide S models manufactured from June 2013 through July 2014.

A voluntary recall campaign will be initiated and your office will be provided with the notices.

Should there be any questions regarding this notice, please feel free to contact me by email or phone using the details listed: Philip Eaglesfield, General Manager of Global After Sales and Parts Operations, philip.eaglesfield@astonmartin.com.

Yours sincerely

Philip Eaglesfield
General Manager - Global After Sales and Parts Operations

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT

1. **Manufacturer:** Aston Martin Lagonda Limited, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire CV35 0DB, United Kingdom.

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

2. **573.6 (c)(2) – Identification of Vehicles**

Listed models manufactured from June 2013 through July 2014 with automatic transmission:

Model	Registered & AMLNA Fleet	Dealer Un- Registered
DB9 Coupe	66	70
DB9 Volante	80	52
Rapide S	123	49
TOTAL	269	171
Service Parts and Glass Switch Upgrade Kits	5	

The supplier of the printed circuit board used in the transmission control switches is TSE spol. s r.o., Mánesova 74, 371 52 České Budějovice, Czech Republic. T: +420 386 721 186.

3. **573.6 (c)(3) - Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved**

440 vehicles, consisting of 269 registered, 171 unregistered at dealerships, plus 5 AMLNA Fleet. An additional 5 vehicles have had parts fitted as Service Parts and Glass Switch Upgrade Kits.

4. **573.6 (c)(4) – Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect**

Currently, the observed failure rate is 0.47% of the recall population, but as a precautionary measure, we will recall 100% of the vehicles identified above.

5. **573.6 (c)(5) – Description of the Defect**

A number of Aston Martin DB9 and Rapide S vehicles contain printed circuit boards (“**PCB**”) within the transmission control switches, which exhibit tracks built to the edge of the PCB. These tracks result in an intermittent earth path from the PCB track through the chrome plating of the switch housing to other surrounding parts.

In the subject vehicles, the transmission defaults to neutral transmission state without any driver input for gear selection, resulting in a loss of motive power. In this case, the driver will be unable to maintain or increase speed. However, steering and brakes remain fully functional and in most cases, drive will operate again if the vehicle is stopped, the ignition is set to off and the vehicle started again.

573.6 (c)(6) - Chronology of Events Determining the Defect

In June 2014, Aston Martin received a report of a vehicle in the field losing drive and defaulting to a neutral transmission state. Aston Martin immediately conducted an investigation into the subject vehicle and determined that recently there have been other reports of vehicles experiencing the same failure mode.

Aston Martin's Critical Concerns Review Group met on July 4 2014, following which a Recall Committee was convened on July 7 2014. The Recall Committee determined the root cause of the failure is the PCB in the transmission control switches. The Recall Committee also determined that a safety-related defect exists and that a recall campaign will be conducted. Aston Martin immediately initiated a gate-hold on production vehicles and notification in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573.

573.6 (c)(8) – Identify the Remedy, Reimbursement Plan and Notification Schedule

The PCB has been modified by the milling of tracks from the edge of the PCB. Reworked parts incorporating the modified PCBs are immediately available from the Supplier. The PCB will also be re-designed without tracks to the edge of the PCB.

Owners of all potentially affected vehicles will be notified to take their vehicle to an Aston Martin dealer. The transmission control switches on the affected vehicles will be replaced with new switches at no cost to the owner.

As all affected vehicles are still covered by the new car warranty, no consumer would have incurred out-of-pocket expenses to obtain a remedy for the issue addressed by this recall, so no reimbursement plan is required.

Aston Martin will provide copies of the notification schedule, including owner letter mail dates, when available.

573.6 (c)(10) – Copies of Dealer/Owner

Please find attached for your review draft customer recall notifications and representative copies of the dealer bulletins.

573.6 (c)(11) – Manufacturer's Recall Code

Aston Martin's assigned recall number is RA-07-0018

Yours sincerely



Philip Eaglesfield
General Manager - Global After Sales and Parts Operations