NHTSA Gets Complaints On Saturn, Honda, Toyota

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received 415 complaints on Saturn Outlooks and GMC Acadias, with the owners claiming headlight failures.

The NHTSA has been asked to open up an investigation, though the cars have not been recalled.

The NHTSA says on its website that the individual requesting the investigation said that the wiring harness inside the headlamp of his 2008 Saturn Outlook overheated and melted. The matter covers Saturn Outlooks and GMC Acadias with model years 2007 through 2009.

The NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation says it has received 415 complaints from consumers between April 2008 and May on the problem.

General Motors spokesman Alan Adler said that the automaker started a program in December to give free replacements and reimbursements for previous repairs to customers dealing with overheating headlamp bulb connectors in the vehicles. Adler says that more than 60 percent of 343,000 vehicles covered by the program have been repaired to date. GM customers included in the program were informed by letter and have until Dec. 31, 2013 to complete the free service.

Adler says there are no confirmed crashes, injuries or fires related to this issue.

The ODI says it will review the matter to determine whether or not a safety defect investigation is necessary.

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received 35 complaints from consumers related to steering and brake problems with the 2005 Honda Pilot.

The sport utility vehicles have not been recalled.

The NHTSA said on its website that it has been asked to open up an investigation into the matter, with one consumer saying that his steering system failed and the vehicle's brakes applied involuntarily. Others have complained that their vehicle's steering pulled, or that the vehicle exited the lane that they were driving in.

The Office of Defects Investigation says the first complaint it received was in 2006, with 10 complaints over the past year.

"We are aware of the investigation and we're cooperating with NHTSA. We have begun our own analysis as well," Honda Motor Co. spokesman Edward Miller said in a statement.

The ODI said it will evaluate the matter to determine whether to grant an investigation.

Honda's stock fell 24 cents to $31.50 in midday trading on Friday.

NEW YORK (AP) — The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has received seven complaints from consumers claiming a suspension arm assembly on their Toyota RAV4 failed due to corrosion.

The NHTSA says on its website that a preliminary evaluation has been opened on the matter, which covers Toyota RAV4 model years 2006 through 2008. The cars have not been recalled.

The agency says the seven complaints received by the Office of Defects Investigation allege that the left or right rear suspension arm assembly No. 1 failed due to corrosion. In four of the complaints the consumers claimed that the failure happened while they were driving at 35 miles per hour or higher, causing them to temporarily lose control of their vehicle.

NHTSA says early warning data from Toyota Motor Corp. includes field reports describing the failure.

A representative for Toyota could not be immediately reached for comment.

The ODI says that the preliminary evaluation will look at the scope, frequency and consequences of rear suspension failures in the subject vehicles.

Toyota's stock declined 65 cents to $76.18 in afternoon trading.

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