

PART 573 Defect Information Report
Fisker Automotive, Inc. – Expansion of Recall No. 11V598
(Addition of 19 Vehicles)

May 25, 2012

Important Note:

Fisker is submitting this Defect Information Report for the purpose of expanding the scope of Recall No. 11V598 to add 19 vehicles. Fisker submitted a letter to the Recall Management Division on May 18, 2012 amending its December 21, 2012 Defect Information Report (Recall 11V598) to advise the Agency of the expanded scope. However, because this is an expansion of a recall initiated in the prior calendar year, NHTSA has requested that Fisker submit a new Part 573 Defect Report to cover the additional vehicles. We understand that, although this is not a new recall and there is no new underlying potential defect, NHTSA, for administrative tracking purposes, will assign a new recall number to the expanded population. Accordingly, we hereby submit the following information, in accordance with Part 573:

1. Vehicle Manufacturer/Importer:

Fisker Automotive, Inc.
5515 East La Palma Avenue
Anaheim, CA 92807

Manufacturer of Affected Component:

A123 Systems, Inc.
200 West Street
Waltham, MA 02451

Contact: Alex Greene, Director of Product Quality (734-772-0372)

2. Identification of Potentially Affected Vehicles

Model Year 2012 Fisker Karma vehicles manufactured from September 22, 2011 through January 20, 2012

3. Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected

Approximately 19 U.S. vehicles are potentially affected, of which 10 are believed to have been delivered to consumers.

4. Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect

Unknown, but Fisker will replace affected components on all vehicles.

5. Description of Defect

Within the high-voltage battery, certain hose clamps may have been positioned incorrectly during the battery supplier's assembly process. If positioned incorrectly, the battery compartment cover could interfere with the hose clamps, potentially causing a weakening of clamping force around the hoses, leading to a coolant leak from the cooling hoses. If coolant enters the battery compartment, an electrical short could possibly occur, causing a thermal event within the battery including a possible fire in the worse case.

To date, Fisker has not received any verified complaints, warranty claims, or any other reports related to this condition, but Fisker is taking this action out of an abundance of caution.

6. Chronology of Principal Events

May 4, 2012: Fisker was first notified by its battery supplier, A123 Systems, Inc., of the possibility that batteries containing the defect may have been installed in a limited quantity of vehicles that were not included in the original recall scope.

May 11 - 15, 2012: To confirm this possibility and to determine whether additional suspect vehicles left Fisker's control, Fisker and A123 reviewed production records and technical information and conducted inspections of a sample of vehicles in dealer inventory.

May 15, 2012: Based upon the foregoing review, inspections and technical information, Fisker management decided to expand Recall No. 11V598 to include an additional 19 vehicles.

As noted previously, there have been no verified claims, complaints, or reports of any kind related to this issue.

7. Description of Remedy

All known owners will be notified and instructed not to charge or drive the vehicle. Owners will be advised to contact an Authorized Fisker Dealer who will arrange transporting the vehicle directly to their repair facility. The dealer will replace the high-voltage battery with a new part. The remedy will ensure the spring hose clamps are properly sealing the hoses to prevent the potential for coolant leakage.

8. Reimbursement Program

All of the subject vehicles are within the Fisker Limited New Vehicle Warranty period. Accordingly, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. 577.11(e), Fisker requests that it be exempt from the pre-notification remedy reimbursement requirements.

9. Dealer and Owner Notification

Dealer notification occurred on May 22, 2012. Representative copies of dealer communications will be provided to the agency within five business days after they are issued.

Attached is the owner letter that the Agency previously approved for use in Recall No. 11V598. Fisker intends to use the identical letter to notify owners for this expanded recall.

10. Fisker's campaign number for this recall is: "51611001"