

**Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**  
400 Seventh Street, S.W  
Washington, DC. 20590  
23 September 2010

**Subject:** Aston Martin Recall Action: RA-04-0014 – DB9, V8 Vantage derivatives and DBS Coupe – 2007/2008 Model Years – Front suspension lower control arm fastener (Cam bolts - out of specification).

**Summary**

**Aston Martin Action** Aston Martin is conducting a Safety Recall Action involving certain 2007 and 2008 Model Year cars, including DB9 and V8 Vantage derivatives and DBS Coupe models.

**Number of vehicles Involved** 1090 vehicles in the United States and Federated Territories.

**Affect on Vehicle Operation** The front bottom suspension arm cam bolt could crack along its shank if the part is too hard. This failure can allow the lower control arm to move, which will influence steering feel and control, and could also lead to suspension knock.

**Service Programme** Dealers will be instructed to replace the front suspension lower control arm cam bolts (x 2 per car) with cam bolts of a known quality assured specification.

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 email or phone using the details listed: [cbaker20@astonmartin.com](mailto:cbaker20@astonmartin.com) Tel: + 44 1926 644740 or in my absence, Steve Tiltman, Technical Services Manager: [stiltma1@astonmartin.com](mailto:stiltma1@astonmartin.com) Tel: +44 1926 644700.

Yours sincerely

Chris E Baker

General Manager - After Sales Operations

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

**SERVICE ACTION RECALL – RA- 04 - 0014 – Certain 2007 & 2008 Model Year DB9, V8 Vantage  
and DBS Aston Martin’s**

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, Aston Martin submits the following information concerning a Service Action Recall that it is voluntarily initiating.

**Date this report was prepared on:** 23 September 2010

**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 After Sales Operations – Tel: +44 1926 644740  
E mail: [cbaker20@astonmartin.com](mailto:cbaker20@astonmartin.com)

Steven J Tiltman – Technical Services Manager - Tel: + 44 1926 644700  
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**North America Importer:** Aston Martin Lagonda of North America, 9920 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine CA 92618 USA

USA contact: Scott Morgan – After Sales Manager The Americas – Tel: 1 949 379 3104

E mail: [smorga48@astonmartin.com](mailto:smorga48@astonmartin.com)

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

Aston Martin Sports Cars; two door Coupe and Convertible derivatives, manufactured between March 2007 through September 2007. All cars in this range to be checked 100%.

DB9 Coupe - Range: A08057 – A09451  
DB9 Volante - Range: B08058 – B09449  
V8 Vantage - Coupe Range: C05660 – C08356  
V8 Vantage Roadster Range: D05666 – D08355  
DBS Coupe - Range: E00001 – E00024

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

1090 vehicles in the United States and Federated Territories (4110 globally)

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

Less than 1%

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

- **The cause of the problem is a bolt supplied to AML had incorrect heat treatment. The hardness of the part was higher than the specification.**
- **To understand what parts were affected, AML changed the bolts on a sample of cars across all production models and all production dates.**
- **These bolts were examined in our laboratory and hardness values established.**
- **A group of bolts around the failed bolt were found to be out of tolerance for hardness.**
- **Parts chronologically either side of this group were acceptable and the recall population was established with a buffer of acceptable bolts.**

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

Front suspension lower control arm fastener cam bolts (one per side) may be out of specification, i.e. the part may be too hard due to incorrect heat treatment and may be prone to snap off along its shank.

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

Certain cam bolts fitted to cars built between March and September 2007 may not have been properly heat treated and may be out of their design tolerance for hardness.

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

A cam bolt that is too hard may fail and snap off along its shank. This could allow the lower control arm (which is sandwiched between the sub-frame assembly) to move which could influence steering control.

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

Unusual steering response accompanied by metallic rattling.

#### **Component Supplier corporate name and address details**

Anixter Fasteners, Unit 21, Spitfire Park, Erdington, Birmingham, B24 9PR, UK

#### **Identity of Supplier Representative**

Richard Hawker – Quality Director

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

One field failure alerted Aston Martin of this issue, reported on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2009, on Chassis Number: D07326. The car was not involved in an accident and no injury or harm was caused to the vehicle occupants. There was no damage to the vehicle.

The vehicle was recovered to a franchised Dealership for repairs and new parts were fitted. Since that time, Aston Martin has been in contact with the cam bolt fastener supplier. That supplier subsequently became insolvent and was taken over by another supplier named Anixter. The new supplier and Aston Martin's own Manufacturing and Quality Departments have conducted extensive checks to verify component records. Additionally, field component samplings having taken place to determine the affected build range where affected components may have been used in the manufacturing build process. The research led to a Critical Concerns Review Group (CCRG) being convened on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010. As a result, Aston Martin held Recall Committee Meetings on September 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2010 to determine what if any action to take. The September 16 Recall Committee Meeting determined that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety may exist and to conduct this recall.

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

**Samples of bolts from production dates April 04 to June 09 were examined. Some bolt used in cars built in June 07 exhibited excessive hardness. As a precaution, the recall includes all cars built between March 07 and September 07.**

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

Aston Martin has an established Recall process in place to ensure that end user customers and Franchised Dealers are fully reimbursed through our Warranty System. Recall Action document: RA-04-0014 provides the necessary details in this regard, inclusive of a repair process; parts supply information and customer communications strategy. A draft copy of RA-04-0014 is attached for reference.

Dealer mailings to customers will be employed using Dealer records and VIN based customer data. The Aston Martin customer letter will accompany the RA-04-0014 Dealer documentation suite alerting all Dealers to immediately carry out this 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.

Sample dealer and owner letters attached.

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

Recall timeline – Launch date wk42, week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

**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- 04 - 0014** to this Recall Action. A copy of the documentation suite is attached for your reference. Thank you.

Chris E Baker  
General Manager – After Sales Operations