



RX-8 Owners Club UK  
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Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA)  
Vehicle Safety Branch  
Berkeley House  
Croydon Street  
Bristol  
BS5 0DA

**Dear Sir/Madam**

**Mazda RX-8 – Safety Recall – Fuel Tank (Campaign AH022A/AH023A)**

The RX-8 Owners Club UK (RX-8 OC) are very concerned at a potentially serious safety issue arising from the above recall work.

In the early stages of this campaign (late 2017/early 2018), a few owners reported “strong petrol smells” in their car after this recall work had been completed. The RX-8 OC raised this via email with Mazda UK (Chris Twine, Dealer Development Manager, Customer Service Department, Mazda UK) in Feb 2018 and he replied:

“Should any Mazda RX-8 owner have any concerns or questions regarding the recently launched Safety Recalls relating to the fuel pump and/or front suspension arm ball joints, they should firstly contact their local Mazda dealer. If the issue is not resolved they can contact our Mazda Customer Relations Centre on [mmukassistance@mazdaeur.com](mailto:mmukassistance@mazdaeur.com) or 03457 484848”

We passed that information on to our club members on 6 March 2018.

However, reports of more fuel leaks continued to reach us so, to get a better idea of the scale of the problem, we recently carried out a survey via our club forum, RX-8 specific Facebook Groups and email.

We were horrified to learn that, of 94 respondents, 69 had taken their car to Mazda dealers for the recall, and 15 of those owners (22%) reported fuel leaks after the work had been done.

In some cases (we have a video available) fuel can be seen pouring from the tank after filling with petrol. The issue is not confined to any specific dealership, the problem arising from Inverness to Eastbourne.

It is also concerning that 12 respondents are choosing not to have this work done, having learned of the problems reported by other owners.

To put this in context, we are unaware of a single instance of fuel leakage from an RX-8 tank prior to this recall. So, far from making cars safer, this recall appears to be doing the exact opposite.

We contend that no car should leave a dealership with a leaking fuel tank.

We commend Mazda UK on issuing a detailed (18 page) document which describes the work to be performed by dealerships on the fuel tank. The procedure requires owners to deliver their cars with less than a quarter tank of fuel and the prescribed dealership test at the end of the work is:

“Perform ‘Fuel Leak Inspection’ after the fuel pump unit Installation

- 1) Start driving the vehicle from a standstill or brake suddenly 5-6 times at a low speed.
- 2) Stop the vehicle and verify from inside the vehicle that there is no fuel leakage around the fuel pump ring and quick connector.”

It is clear that this test, assuming it is being performed, is inadequate to test for a fuel leak. Most owners report a leak only becomes obvious when completely filling the tank. Some owners report they have not filled their tank since the recall work was completed and may be driving around unaware there may be a leak.

So far, thankfully, we have not heard of any serious consequences, but are anxious that, if changes are not made to check more thoroughly for the integrity of the fuel tank prior to customer collection, there may be lives at risk.

I will finish with the words of one owner:

“.....major fuel leak the first time that the tank was refilled after the work had been completed. We were going on an RX8 Owners Club social meet and had our 6-year-old daughter with us who was sitting in the rear passenger seat, so basically on top of the leaking fuel tank. The car was recovered to Clevedon Mazda who repaired it and we don't appear to have any issues since, but very concerned over what could have happened.”

Yours faithfully

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