

NHTSA to Penalize Chrysler for Recall Issues Affecting 11 Million-Plus Vehicles

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) – Fiat Chrysler will be punished soon for failing to follow the law in 23 recalls involving more than 11 million vehicles, the nation's top auto safety regulator said last week.

But Mark Rosekind, administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wouldn't say what action the agency will take until after a public comment period closes July 17.

Rosekind spoke after a two-hour public hearing in Washington on Fiat Chrysler's recall performance that featured agency officials detailing an alarming litany of failures to notify customers of recalls, delays in making and distributing repair parts and in some cases failing to come up with repairs that fix the problems.

Some of the recalls date to 2013, and Rosekind said more allegations against the company could be added.

"The evidence seems very straightforward," Rosekind said. "There's a pattern that's been going on for some time."

Rosekind said a number of options for agency action are "on the table," including fines against the company and requiring it to

buy back vehicles subject to recall.

NHTSA can fine automakers a maximum of \$35 million per infraction, so Chrysler could face millions in penalties. It's unlikely, though, that the company would face the top fine in all 23 recalls.

Rosekind told reporters that Fiat Chrysler needs to follow the law, meeting deadlines to notify owners and distribute parts. When it doesn't, that puts people at risk, he said.

The agency said it likely will act by the end of July.

The company, in testimony last week, didn't dispute any of NHTSA's allegations. Scott Kunselman, Fiat Chrysler's recently appointed head of vehicle safety, said it is changing the way it manages safety to follow the industry's best practices.

The safety system, he said, has been reorganized with added personnel. He now reports directly to CEO Sergio Marchionne. The person in his position had been three rungs down the organization chart from the chief executive, he said.

"We have learned from our mistakes and missteps," he told the agency.

Much of the testimony in the hearing focused on a recall of

1.56 million older-model Jeeps with gas tanks mounted behind the rear axles. The tanks are vulnerable to being punctured in a rear crash. At least 75 people have died in fires involving the Jeeps, according to NHTSA.

The company said they are as safe or safer than comparable vehicles built during the same time period.

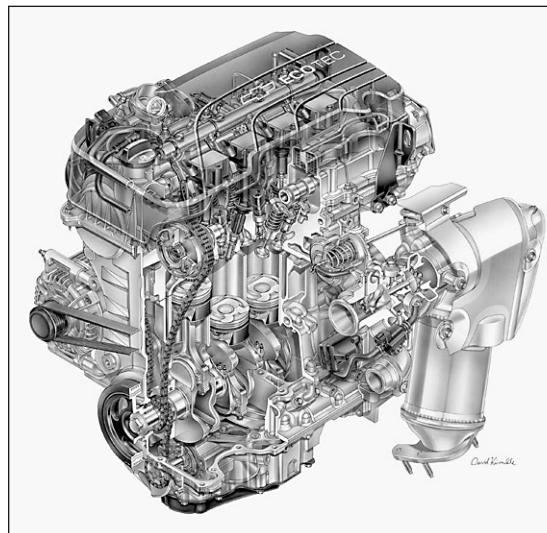
The recall fix is installing a trailer hitch to protect the tanks in low-speed crashes.

Todd Anderson of Connecticut, who lost his 17-year-old son when the family's 1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee was rear-ended and exploded in flames, asked the agency to order Fiat Chrysler to buy back the recalled Jeeps to get them off the road.

Anderson said the crash that killed Skyler Justice Anderson-Coughlin happened in November 2013, five months after the Jeep recall was announced. He was unaware of the recall until getting a notice in the mail from Fiat Chrysler the following May or June and said the notice should have been sent sooner.

"If I had received the notification, my son would be alive today," he said.

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2016 Chevrolet Cruze Ecotec

Chevy Cruze First American Car to Use GM's New Ecotec

by Jim Stickford

The 2016 Chevy Cruze may be an all-American car, but it has international heritage.

The new Cruze was unveiled in Detroit late last month, built on GM's Delta II platform and is the first American car to contain GM's new Ecotec engine.

GM spokesman Tom Read said the Ecotec was developed in the United States as well as at GM's facility in Ruesselsheim, Germany.

"The Cruze is the first compact

here to use the Ecotec," Read said, "but it's already in use in China and it has seen some Euro applications as well."

While the engine may have been partly developed in Germany, it's being made in Flint," said Read. "The transmission is being made in Toledo.

"I think the customers will be really excited with the improved power and torque. They will also be really impressed with the quietness of the engine and

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2016 Ford Explorer



2015 Cherokee Trailhawk



2015 Buick Encore

Chrysler, Ford June Sales Up As GM Fleet Sales Drop

Americans like their trucks and SUVs. At least that's what June 2015 vehicle sales indicated.

Fiat Chrysler reported U.S. sales of 185,035 units, an 8 percent increase compared with sales in June 2014 (171,086 units), and the group's best June sales since 2006.

The Chrysler, Jeep and Ram Truck brands each posted year-over-year sales gains in June compared with the same month a year ago.

The Chrysler brand's 28 percent increase was the largest sales gain of any Fiat Chrysler brand during the month. The group extended its streak of year-over-year sales gains to 63 consecutive months.

Jeep brand sales increased 25 percent, the brand's best June sales ever and its 21st consecutive month of year-over-year sales gains. The Jeep brand has set a sales record in every month dating back to November 2013. Three Jeep brand vehicles set records in June.

The Wrangler, Cherokee, and Patriot each posted their best June sales ever.

The Wrangler, with its 17 percent increase, recorded its second-best sales month this year. The Patriot's 41 percent year-over-year increase was the largest sales percentage gain of any Jeep brand model for the month. The new Jeep Renegade, the small sport-utility vehicle (SUV), had sales of 4,858 units in its third full month in the market, up 10 percent compared with sales in the previous month of May.

"June represented another strong month for our company with sales up 8 percent and our 63rd consecutive month of year-over-year sales increases," said Reid Bigland, head of U.S. Sales.

"Our all-new Jeep Renegade and Fiat 500X inventory started to arrive at dealerships in greater volume during June, positioning us well for the summer-selling season."

Fiat Chrysler finished the month of June with a 78-day sup-

ply of inventory (577,522 units). U.S. industry sales figures for June are internally projected at an estimated 17.5 million units Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate (SAAR).

Strong consumer demand for its newest products pushed Ford Motor Company total U.S. June sales 2 percent higher, to 225,647 vehicles sold.

"Strong retail momentum continues building for our newest vehicles – including F-150, Mustang, Edge, and now Explorer," said Mark LaNeve, Ford vice president, U.S. Marketing, Sales and Service.

"The Ford brand's average

transaction prices have increased \$2,700 versus a year ago – more than triple the industry average – while our incentives are down, showing how much customers value our investment in new vehicles with the latest technologies."

F-Series average transaction prices reached an all-time record in June, moving above \$44,000 per truck – \$3,600 higher than last year. The new F-150 is turning twice as fast on dealer lots than the industry average for half-ton pickups, as Ford continues building dealer stocks.

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Ford Checking Driving Habits For Efficiency

The search for finding technology to create better automobiles continues.

Ford Motor Company engineers have completed a real-world driving experiment with technology company HP, discovering which commuting commonalities could provide future breakthroughs for the better management of fleets as well as personalized services and recommendations for individual drivers.

Using HP's Big Data Discovery Experience Services and the HP Haven big data platform, the Ford engineering team gathered data and analyzed it to determine possibilities for lowering operating costs and optimizing underutilized vehicles for fleets as well as personal driving, said Ford spokesman Mike Levine.

Among the observations of the experiment: Regardless of location, most HP drivers grabbed coffee at the same national coffeehouse and refueled with the same brand of gasoline, while traveling employees often left vehicles unused at the airport for days, Levine said. While it's no surprise road-tripping employees stop for coffee, data analysis about commutes and driving routines could lead to greater economies of scale for company fleets and new solutions for optimizing underutilized vehicles.

"The Fleet Insights experiment is one of the first steps to better understand and learn about how driving behavior is changing," said Marcy Klevorn, Ford vice

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Ford Checking Driving Habits For Efficiency

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president and chief information officer.

"Fleets could see operating costs lowered through national buying contracts and improved utilization and maintenance, while individual drivers could receive coupons or create cooperative pools to share unused vehicles."

The Ford Fleet Insights experiment included HP fleet vehicles that were equipped with wireless sensors plugged into each vehicle, Klevorn said.

Ford data scientists and IT leaders used the HP Vertica analytics engine, part of the HP Haven platform, to explore patterns and multiple dimensions of fleet driver activity.

Also, each driver could access their data using a custom smartphone app to recall trip details, if needed.

"HP and Ford share a common vision around bringing together data, mobility, and analytics to explore new ways to deliver better customer experiences, new revenue streams, and lower fuel and maintenance costs in the automotive industry," said Martin Risau, senior vice president, Analytics & Data Management Practice, HP Enterprise Services. "The results of this experiment can help unleash improvements for business operations for fleet management and personal driving experiences."

Observations during the experiment included:

- Regardless of location, most drivers visited the same national coffee house and refueled with the same brand of gasoline.

- Traveling employees often left their vehicles unused at the airport for days. These vehicles could be utilized more effectively by nearby drivers.

- 70 percent of trips took place during weekdays and typical trip distances were 13 miles or less.

Trips fell into four groups:

- City block driving (34 percent): Involved frequent direction changes, driving near the speed limit, idling at stoplights with short distances.

- Freeway driving (21 percent): Involved few driving direction changes with large deviations from the speed limit depending on traffic, and long trip durations and driving distances with less stop-and-go than City Block Commute.

- Non-rush-hour Driving (29 percent): Short trip duration and short distance with fewer stops and idling.

- Rush-hour driving (16 percent): Short trip duration and short distance with frequent stops and idling during peak drive hours.

The Fleet Insight experiment data collection phase was completed in June after gathering information from nearly 100 vehicles, Levine said. Data analysis continues through the end of 2015.

Chevy Cruze First American Car to Use GM's Ecotec Engine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the smoothness of the ride."

In North America, the Cruze is offered with a new Ecotec 1.4L turbocharged engine that features direct injection to help offer a GM-estimated 40 mpg on the highway with an available six-speed automatic transmission, Read said. Standard stop/start technology contributes to efficiency in stop-and-go driving.

The new 1.4L turbo is SAE-certified at 153 hp and 177 lb.-ft. of torque, using regular unleaded fuel (RON 91). It will be offered in additional markets, along with a 1.5L naturally aspirated variant rated at an estimated at 113 hp and 108 lb.-ft. The 1.5L will be matched with a five-speed manual transmission.

"The new Ecotec family is a globally designed and manufactured engine designed to offer class-leading performance, efficiency and refinement in a wide variety of applications around the world," said Dan Nicholson, vice president, GM Global Powertrain. "Each variant is designed for a specific application or local market, but all share design, performance and refinement traits that make the new architecture one of the most adaptable in the industry."

The new Ecotec 1.4L turbo is matched with a standard six-speed manual or available with GM's new Hydra-Matic 6T35 six-speed automatic transmission. It offers the strength of the larger 6T40 transmission in a smaller, lighter package that enhances efficiency in the compact Cruze.

Chevrolet will add a new clean diesel engine to the lineup in 2017, featuring a B20-capable 1.6L diesel already proven in Europe and other global markets.

"The current Cruze diesel has garnered a loyal following among

customers seeking strong, clean and efficient diesel," said Nicholson. "The next Cruze diesel will take those attributes to the next level with the very latest technology, offering what we expect will be the premier small-car diesel package in North America. It affirms GM's commitment to offer diesel engines as an alternative propulsion choice for cars in North America and specifically targets the German dominance in the segment."

Read's colleague, Annalisa Bluhm, said the 2016 Cruze is built around GM's Delta II platform, which was originally developed by GM's Opel brand in Germany. It is the successor to the GM Delta Platform and is known internally as the Global Compact Vehicle Architecture or GCV.

But, Bluhm said, the platform underwent some changes for the North American market.

"It is 27 percent stronger," Bluhm said. "It's all steel. There is no aluminum. This has enabled us to provide a more stable ride. The platform is also longer, so we were able to give the 2016 Cruze two inches more leg room than the previous model."

The Cruze, Bluhm said, will be rolled out globally, and she said everyone appreciates a little more leg room in the back.

"Take the Asian market, for example," Bluhm said. "A passenger sitting in the rear seat is a sign of prestige, sort of like being chauffeured. So that extra leg space really matters."

Mike Wall, director of Automotive Analysis for IHS Automotive, said that from what he's seen of the 2016 Cruze, he's impressed.

"It is so much beyond the cars that it's replaced, like the Cobalt," Wall said. "Just a much better car. And it's an improvement over the most recent Cruze model. And that's important be-

cause the compact segment is owned by cars like the Toyota Corolla and the Honda Civic."

Wall said the compact market is traditionally not one in which America manufacturers have dominated. The strongest players have mostly been the Asian OEMs, and, to some degree, the Europeans.

But, Wall said, it's important that vehicles like the Cruze are state of the art.

"If a company is going to have a complete vehicle lineup, it has to have a compact car," Wall said. "In GM's case, it's the Cruze. And if you want to attract young buyers and keep their loyalty as they 'move' up the lineup list, that compact has to be of real quality. And I think GM has achieved that with the Cruze."

Wall said he also thinks that the Cruze has "some interesting design cues."

"I've heard from a lot of people

that it kind of looks like the Civic or the Chrysler 200," Wall said. "I can see that, but I like its sleek aerodynamic look. And if you're going to achieve great gas mileage, one of the things that helps is an aerodynamic body. And since the laws of aerodynamics are the same for everyone, it's no wonder that compacts share similar looks. I am impressed with the gas mileage. GM says the car will get 40 mpg. I remember when a car getting 30 mpg was a big deal. I guess what they say is true - 40 is the new 30."

Right now, Wall said, the Cruze is facing strong competition from not only other compacts, but from crossovers.

"Externally, the Cruze is competing against cars like the Civic and the other compacts out there, and internally the Cruze faces GM's other CUVs," Wall said.

Chrysler Faces NHTSA's Wrath for Recall Problems

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Anderson said he has hired lawyers and is contemplating a lawsuit over the crash, which occurred in Longmeadow, Mass.

The 23 recalls involved problems as serious as rear-mounted gas tanks that can leak and cause fires in a crash, air bags that can explode with too much force and spew shrapnel, and ignition switches that can abruptly shut off, causing engines to stall.

In one recall, a recommended fix didn't work.

In one case, Fiat Chrysler delayed distribution of parts to fix a nut that can come loose from

Ram truck drive shafts, said Scott Yon, chief of vehicle integrity for NHTSA. If the nuts come loose, the shaft can fall off the truck and the wheels can lock up.

Owners were notified that parts were available in the fall of 2013, but the agency kept getting numerous complaints, he said.

"Although Chrysler reported that it had completed sending notices to owners in November of 2013 telling them parts were available and repairs could be completed, NHTSA continued to receive owner complaints that parts could not be found," Yon said.

Cantie Appointed To Delphi Board

Joseph S. Cantie has joined the board of directors of Delphi Automotive as of June 1.

Cantie is currently the executive vice president and chief financial officer of ZF TRW, a division of ZF Friedrichshafen AG, a global automobile supplier.

He served in these roles for TRW Automotive Holdings Corp. since April 2004, and has held various other senior financial management roles at TRW since joining the company in 1999. Cantie has also held management roles at LucasVarity and KPMG Peat Marwick.



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FCA to Invest \$280 Million For Jeep Production in India

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles on July 1 agreed to invest approximately \$280 million in its manufacturing joint venture, Fiat India Automobiles Private Limited with Tata Motors Limited.

The investment in the manufacturing facility in Ranjangaon, India, will support the production of a new Jeep vehicle and is expected to begin production in the second quarter of 2017, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Shawn Morgan.

"Today marks an important step as we continue to expand the availability of Jeep products around the world," said FCA's CEO Sergio Marchionne.

"Earlier this year, we indicated that 2015 would be a transformational year in the globalization of the brand and this announcement reinforces that commitment.

"Establishing Jeep production in India will give us the opportunity to offer even more people the chance to experience the freedom and adventure that can come from behind the wheel of a Jeep vehicle.

"We are pleased that this investment will strengthen FCA presence in India and are confident in the ability of the joint venture to produce world-class products like those carrying the legendary Jeep nameplate," said Marchionne.

The announcement was made

as a delegation, led by the State of Maharashtra's Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, met with Mike Manley, FCA president and CEO - Jeep Brand, Global, and COO of Asia Pacific Region, and other company representatives in the FCA North American headquarters in Auburn Hills.

"The association of Fiat with Maharashtra is not new and dates back many decades," said Fadnavis. "We welcome Fiat Chrysler's decision to invest in the state of Maharashtra and reaffirm the Government's interest in expanding the relationship with Fiat Chrysler by fully supporting this new initiative."

In 2014, Jeep sales exceeded one million units across the globe, setting an all-time record for the third consecutive year, Morgan said.

To further reach its global audience, Jeep is making Ranjangaon the fourth plant outside of the U.S. for volume production of Jeep vehicles. Jeep-branded vehicles are also currently built in Italy and Brazil, and will begin production in China in the fourth quarter of 2015.

The chief minister was accompanied by a high-level delegation comprised of the principal secretary (Industries), development commissioner (Industries) and under-secretaries of the various functions attached to the Industries Ministry of the state.

FCA Employees Reach Out to Quake Victims

It's always a good time to help your neighbor. And that's exactly what approximately 260 Fiat Chrysler employees did at the Chrysler World Headquarters and Technology Center in Auburn Hills on June 29.

The volunteers switched gears - taking time out from building cars and trucks to package 95,000 life-sustaining meals that will be distributed in Nepal.

The meals will be distributed by the Kids Against Hunger Coalition (KAHC) to children and families in need following the aftermath of the devastating earthquakes in April.

The packages were filled with a mixture of rice, vitamin-fortified soy, dehydrated vegetables, vitamins and minerals.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Nepal," said Jody Trapasso, FCA's North America senior vice president - External Affairs, and president of the FCA Foundation.

"June 29's event, and others like it taking place (last) week in Canada and Mexico, demonstrates what it means to be a Motor Citizen, and give your time to support the greater good."

One June 29, FCA Mexico employees delivered food packages to local families in need, while FCA Canada employees held their own hunger relief-themed event June 30 in Vancouver.

The event at the company's Auburn Hills headquarters surpassed its goal of packaging 85,000 life-sustaining meals,



FCA volunteers prepare care packages to be sent to Nepal.

said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Christina Biache.

A total of 268 volunteers assembled 95,000 meals (15,830 packages) that can be prepared with just water.

Each package can feed approximately six adults or 12 children. The earthquake in Nepal took

place on April 25 and killed more than 8,800 people. It also injured more than 23,000 others.

Entire villages were flattened and hundreds of thousands were made homeless.

A May 12 aftershock killed more than 200 and more than 2,500 were injured.

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Mopar Brings New Scat Pack Kits to Market

Following the successful introduction of the Scat Pack 1 performance kit (a special package developed for the Dodge Challenger and Dodge Charger), Mopar is going even further by opening orders for the new Scat Pack 2 and Scat Pack 3 kits, helping more customers transform their vehicles from daily drivers into track-ready rides, said Fiat Chrysler spokesman Ariel Gavilan.

"We continue to deliver on our performance mission by inspiring our owners with extreme personalization and exclusive performance package options," said Pietro Gorlier, president and CEO - Mopar Brand Service, Parts and Customer Care.

"Our kits are engineered together with the same teams that create factory-authorized specifications for our vehicles, providing our customers not only outstanding performance but also peace of mind."

The Mopar Scat Pack 2 performance upgrade kit is geared toward the performance enthusiast looking for an extra competitive edge in their 5.7L Hemi engine, taking vehicles off the street and putting them on the track.

The kit offers a new Mopar Performance camshaft that works in conjunction with the components of the Scat Pack 1 kit, further improving the breathing of the engine to deliver an additional acceleration advantage, Gavilan said.

Also included is a set of Mopar Performance valve springs, tie bars, upgraded pushrods and all the gaskets.

The kit delivers a performance upgrade while also preserving the factory warranty, said Gavilan, adding that two Scat Pack 2 badges complete the package to put on display and tease what is lurking under the hood.

Fiat Chrysler's Uconnect System Sees Upgrades

Improvements have been made to the Fiat Chrysler Uconnect systems for 2016, said Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman Alyse Tadajewski.

The automaker's Uconnect team's new features and services in properly equipped 2016 vehicles include a Drag and Drop menu bar, Siri Eyes Free, Do Not Disturb, SiriusXM Tune Start and a Vehicle User Guide that can be viewed via the 8.4-inch touchscreen.

Tadajewski said the new Uconnect also has improved graphics designed to incorporate individual FCA brand themes and characteristics, and increased processing power that delivers Uconnect systems overall enhanced performance.

All this is important, Tadajewski said, because it allows customers to stay connected to the information they want and need while remaining focused on the road. Each vehicle comes equipped with a Uconnect system that can provide drivers with a range of available communication, navigation and entertainment features or connected services. These features come with an 8.4-inch touchscreen.

In addition to several all-new innovative and customizable features, Uconnect will continue to enhance the Uconnect system's graphics that are designed to incorporate individual Fiat Chrysler brand themes and characteristics and to visually assist drivers with navigating through the Uconnect system in a more intuitive manner, Tadajewski said.

Picture may not reflect actual vehicle. *The Chrysler Group LLC Employee Advantage Purchase program sale prices and lease payments quoted. Best add tax, title, doc fee and destination charge. **24, 27, 30, 36 month Chrysler Group LLC employee leases. The amount due on all leases require amount due plus monthly tax, cap cost reduction tax, first payment, title, plate, doc fee and destination charge. Security deposit is waived on all leases payments. Lease payments are \$10,000 minus per year. 20 cents per mile thru 800 or 25 cents thru Chrysler Capital for excess mileage. Customer must qualify for 1 or 5 tier credit approval. Payments subject to change due to lower approved credit line. Banks may require to prove income and residency for credit approval. Customer is responsible for excess wear and tear. Total delivered price is the sum of the purchase price, plus doc fee, plate fee, sales tax, and accrued finance charges over the term of the lease. All rebates and program monies assigned back to dealer. All prices and lease payments are based off Chrysler Group LLC Incentives thru the Great Lakes Business Center. Rebates on retail consumer cash, lease cash, loyalty, military, trade assist cash and all other Great Lakes offers will be applied. The dealer invoice amount is not a net factory price to dealer. Customers may not qualify for all offers, incentives, discounts or financing offers. See dealer for qualifications and complete details. Exclusive Huvaere new car cash coupon has been applied to all sale and lease payments in this ad. © Chrysler Group LLC Employee Advantage 84 month buy at 3.49% APR with approved credit at tier 1. Vehicle sale prices include Chrysler Capital bonus cash minus finance thru Chrysler Capital. 200's lease payment includes mid-size segment conquest cash. *Sale prices include lessee loyalty retail bonus cash, customer must qualify.

2015 Concours d'Elegance Set for July 24-26

Bruce Meyer, the quintessential "car guy," was named Enthusiast of the Year by the Concours d'Elegance of America at St. John's in Michigan.

Meyer will be honored at the 37th Concours d'Elegance of America at the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth, July 24-26.

The event's board members are recognizing Meyer for his decades of automotive enthusiasm, which include being a "founding father" of the Petersen Automotive Museum, said Petersen Automotive Museum spokesman Tom Morr.

Meyer served as the Petersen's first board chairman and is currently vice chairman. Meyer also sits on the boards of the Mullin Automotive Museum and Nethercutt Collection and is on the steering committees at the LeMay Museum and Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

"If the dictionary had an entry for 'car guy,' Bruce Meyer's picture would be next to the definition," said Concours chairman Larry Moss.

"Bruce is one of the car hobby's premier goodwill ambassadors. Few have done more to raise the profile of car-collecting over the years than Bruce Meyer.

"The Concours d'Elegance of America has a long history of celebrating some of the most iconic automobiles ever produced. Bruce certainly represents that same storied history through his passion for all things automotive."

"This is truly a special honor for me to be recognized by those in the car capital of world," said Meyer "... and the Concours d'Elegance of America is run by people who understand the im-

portance of our country's automotive heritage. "I'm looking forward to celebrating with my friends in Michigan."

The Concours d'Elegance has its roots in 17th century France, when the aristocracy would parade their horse-drawn carriages through the parks of Paris as a way of showing off to their neighbors, said 2015 Concours d'Elegance executive director Diane Flis-Schneider.

With the advent of the automobile, Concours d'Elegance events evolved into competitions between automobile manufacturers, custom coachbuilders, and owners, whose vehicles were judged on the beauty of their design.

The Concours d'Elegance of America at St. John's continues this tradition of exhibiting prestigious collector cars and also offers an automotive art exhibition, a vintage car auction, Mode du Concours and many other social events, Flis-Schneider said.

For its first 32 years, the Concours d'Elegance of America was held at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall, the historic home of Matilda Dodge Wilson, widow of automotive pioneer John Dodge.

"In 2011, this world-class event moved to the beautiful grounds of the Inn at St. John's in Plymouth," said Flis-Schneider.

"In keeping with our tradition of showcasing classic, rare and magnificent automobiles, the car selection committee will again invite a unique collection of vehicles to be displayed for the 2015 Concours d'Elegance."

For more information on daily events and prices, call 248-643-8645 or visit the Website concourssusa.org.

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ZF TRW Shows World Its New Video Camera

ZF TRW, a Livonia-based division of ZF Friedrichshafen AG, on July 1 introduced its third-generation video camera, the S-Cam 3, and is starting production for the first time across four major global platforms.

The camera is launching on a number of compact C and D segment sedan and crossover vehicles in Europe, North America and Asia through the end of 2015, said ZF TRW spokesman John Wilkerson. It has six times the processing power of older-generation cameras. The technology offers functions including traffic light detection, large animal and general object detection, and automatic night emergency braking for pedestrians.

Andy Whydell, director, product planning at ZF TRW, said the S-Cam 3 marks a milestone in making active safety technology accessible to the mass market. Cameras are widely recognized for their safety benefits, and the S-Cam3 is now ASIL-B rated for improved functional safety performance. Now in its third generation, it is a highly sophisticated, proven technology that can enable important safety decisions and provide a strong base platform for active safety systems when combined with other sensors and actuators.

Wilkerson said the fourth-generation S-Cam 4 family, which will feature Mobileye's EyeQ4 chip, is set to launch in 2018 and is designed to meet the requirements of automated driving functions. There is a single-lens, mono-camera version and a premium three-lens version that adds a telephoto lens for improved long-distance sensing, and a fish-eye lens for improved short-range sensing.



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Audis, BMWs, Subarus Burn More Than Just Midnight Oil

DETROIT (AP) – Newer cars aren't supposed to burn oil, but *Consumer Reports* magazine found that some engines – mainly from Audi, BMW and Subaru – force their owners to add a quart as often as once a month.

In the magazine's annual survey of car owners, significant numbers reported what the magazine considered to be excessive oil consumption.

Consumer Reports focused on 2010 to 2014 models and called on automakers to make repairs under the powertrain warranty or to extend warranties.

"The companies should be willing to step up and take responsibility for their products," said Mark Rehtin, the magazine's cars content team leader.

Owners of newer cars, he said, shouldn't have to carry oil around and worry about adding it. Most cars, he said, have dashboard lights warning drivers if their oil gets too low. But failing to pay attention to that light eventually can cause engine damage.

The magazine's survey didn't find any link between oil consumption and other engine problems, but it found that cars that burn oil early consume more as they age.

It's normal for cars to burn a little oil as they age toward 100,000 miles, the magazine said in its August issue. But for a late-model car to burn a quart or more between changes is not acceptable, Rehtin said.

The magazine focused on survey data from 498,000 owners of 2010 to 2014 models, finding that 98 percent did not have to add oil between changes. But even if the problem happens to only 2 percent of owners, that equals

1.5 million cars from the five model years, Rehtin said.

Several engines from the three manufacturers were the main offenders, according to the magazine, including Audi's 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder and 3.0-liter V6; BMW's 4.8-liter V8 and 4.4-liter twin-turbo V8; and Subaru's 3.6-liter six-cylinder and 2.0- and 2.5-liter four-cylinder engines. The Subaru burned less oil than the others.

Affected models include Audi's A3, A4, A5, A6 and Q5; BMW's 5, 6, and 7 Series and X5; and the Subaru Outback, Legacy, Forester and Impreza.

The magazine says that standards for certain Audi and BMW cars say that it's reasonable to burn a quart of oil every 600 to 700 miles. Subaru considers one quart burned for every 1,000 to 1,200 miles to be acceptable, *Consumer Reports* said.

Audi spokesman Bradley Stertz said a class action lawsuit against Audi over oil consumption by the 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engines is close to being settled without the company admitting liability or wrongdoing.

The settlement affects 2009 A4, 2010 A4 and A5, and 2011 A4, A5 and Q5 models. With the other models, Audi hasn't been able to identify an abnormal number of oil consumption complaints on the other models, he said.

Subaru spokesman Michael McHale said oil consumption can vary depending on how a vehicle is used.

The vast majority of Subarus, he said, performed within specifications, and the company's vehicles have improved from 2010 through the current models.

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Chrysler, Ford Sales Up As GM Fleet Drops

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ford brand SUV sales were up 10 percent year over year, producing the best June sales results since 2002 – with 64,885 vehicles sold.

Sales of the new Explorer are off to a fast start, with a total of 20,377 sold, an increase of 30 percent versus a year ago. Sales of the new Edge increased 30 percent in June versus last year, with 12,587 vehicles sold. Edge continues to turn quickly on dealer lots – at just 15 days – while the new Explorer is turning in just seven days.

Ford van sales totaling 21,419 vehicles represent a 31 percent increase relative to last year, for the best June results since 1999. During the first half of the year, van sales totaled 109,783 vehicles – a 26 percent increase and the best first-half van sales performance since 1988. The new Transit, with sales of 12,134 vans last month, is driving Ford's segment growth, with its strongest-ever sales month.

Mustang sales were up 54 percent, with 11,719 cars sold, representing Mustang's best June performance since 2007. Mustang sales are particularly strong in America's largest sports car region, Southern California, where retail sales are up 157 percent in June.

Lincoln retail sales increased 20 percent versus a year ago, providing the premium brand with its best June results since 2007. Lincoln MKC continues to build momentum, along with Navigator, which posted a 39 percent sales increase for June. New Lincoln MKX sales started late last month.

GM enjoyed strong retail sales in June, especially with its trucks, but a reduction in fleet sales resulted in GM's overall sales declining by 3 percent.

GM increased its sales to commercial customers, and state and local government fleets, as well. Rental deliveries, which tend to be less profitable than retail sales, were down 45 percent as a result of GM's previously announced plan.

Total fleet sales in June were down 29 percent year over year, or 21,366 units.

But on the more profitable retail side of sales, Chevrolet, Buick, GMC and Cadillac dealers in the United States delivered 259,353 vehicles in June 2015. Retail deliveries climbed 7 percent year over year, and they were up more than the industry for the third month in a row.

The drivers were stronger Cadillac sales, a 12 percent gain at GMC and a 9 percent increase at Chevrolet. Together, they helped make the month General Motors' best June for retail deliv-

eries since 2007 and its best June for retail market share since 2011.

The Acadia was up 24 percent for its best June ever. Sierra was up 13 percent and Buick Encore deliveries were up 22 percent.

"We just wrapped up the U.S. auto industry's best six months in a decade, driven by strong demand for pickups and crossovers," said Kurt McNeil, GM's U.S. vice president of Sales Operations.

"People feel good about their jobs and the direction the economy as a whole is taking, so the second half of the year should be strong, too, and that's especially good news for Chevrolet and GMC, brands that have very broad truck and crossover portfolios."

Industry sales continue to exceed expectations. GM estimates

that the seasonally adjusted annual selling rate (SAAR) for light vehicles in June was 17.3 million units.

During the first half of 2015, GM gained retail market share in both the crossover and truck segments, according to J.D. Power PIN estimates.

GM's crossover share is 12.6 percent, up 0.4 percentage points compared with a year ago. GM's truck, van and SUV share is 38.9 percent, up 2.1 percentage points.

Most of the truck market share gain comes from the ongoing success of the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra full-size pickups, which were redesigned for the 2014 model year.

Since calendar year 2013, GM's retail share of the segment has grown 0.9 percentage points to 38 percent, according to PIN.

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Bain Capital Has Finalized Purchase Of TI Automotive

Bain Capital completed its acquisition June 30 of Auburn Hills-based TI Automotive, a provider of automotive fluid storage, carrying and delivery systems for passenger cars and light trucks, said TI Automotive spokesman Frank Buscemi.

Bain Capital is a global private investment firm, Buscemi said. Financial terms of the private transaction, which was previously announced on Jan. 27, were not disclosed.

TI Automotive has facilities in 29 countries with diversified sales in every key automotive market, Buscemi said. The company's focus on vehicle fluid management include Fluid Carrying Systems, Tank Systems, Pump and Module Systems, HVAC Fluid Systems and Powertrain Components.

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