

08E-019
(10 pages)
INTERCONTINENTAL
AUTO PARTS, INC.



133 Williams Drive. Ramsey, NJ 07446 - Tel: 201-825-4235, Fax: 201-825-4236

March 3, 2008

Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement,
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attn: Recall management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Smith

On 25 February, 2008 Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc., Ramsey, NJ decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain production runs of Shanghai Inter Auto Parts Co., LTD fuel filter part number ALG 44/1, corresponding to Purolator part number F10024. The filter's outlet cap might not be securely crimped to the housing. This could result in separation of the filter's outlet cap from the housing. If this condition occurs while attempting to start the vehicle, a no start condition may result and fuel may be pumped out onto the ground. If this condition occurs while the vehicle is in motion, the engine may stop due to inadequate fuel supply. If an ignition source were present, fuel leakage may result in a fire.

Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc. is filing this Defect Information Report in compliance with 49 CFR 573.6.

§573.6(c)

(1) *The Manufacturers name:*

Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc.
133 Williams Drive
Ramsey NJ 07446

Contact:

Mr. William Billich
Customer and Technical Service Manager
(201) 825-4235
bill@iapfilters.com

(2) *Items involved in this recall:*

- a) Generic Name of Item: Fuel Filter
- b) Make / Model: Intercontinental Auto Parts ALG-44/1; Purolator F10024.
- c) Function: Automobile Fuel Filter for the following vehicles:

Filter F10024 is used on the following Motor Vehicles:

	Manufacturer	Model	Model Years		Engine
1	<u>FORD</u>	F-Series Pickup	1981	1982	300cid
2	<u>FORD</u>	E-Series Van	1977	1980	302cid
3	<u>FORD</u>	Pinto	1975	1975	2300cc
4	<u>FORD</u>	E-Series Van	1978	1980	351cid
5	<u>FORD</u>	F-Series Pickup	1978	1980	300cid
6	<u>FORD</u>	Ranchero	1979	1979	351cid
7	<u>FORD</u>	Bronco	1978	1980	300cid
8	<u>FORD</u>	Bronco	1978	1980	302cid
9	<u>FORD</u>	Bronco	1978	1980	351cid
10	<u>FORD</u>	Bronco	1978	1980	400cid
11	<u>FORD</u>	F-Series Pickup	1979	1980	302cid
12	<u>FORD</u>	F-Series Pickup	1979	1980	351cid
13	<u>FORD</u>	F-Series Pickup	1979	1980	400cid
14	<u>FORD</u>	E-Series Van	1979	1980	400cid
15	<u>FORD</u>	E-Series Van	1979	1980	460cid
16	<u>FORD</u>	Ranchero	1979	1979	302cid
17	<u>FORD</u>	Bronco	1981	1981	300cid
18	<u>FORD</u>	Thunderbird	1977	1977	400cid
19	<u>FORD</u>	Thunderbird	1977	1979	351cid
20	<u>FORD</u>	LTD	1977	1977	400cid
21	<u>FORD</u>	LTD	1977	1977	351M
22	<u>FORD</u>	Country Squire	1977	1977	400cid
23	<u>FORD</u>	Thunderbird	1979	1980	302cid
24	<u>FORD</u>	Granada	1979	1980	302cid
25	<u>FORD</u>	Mustang	1979	1979	302cid
26	<u>FORD</u>	Mustang	1979	1979	2300cc
27	<u>FORD</u>	LTD	1979	1980	351cid
28	<u>FORD</u>	LTD	1979	1980	302cid
29	<u>FORD</u>	Thunderbird	1980	1980	255cid
30	<u>FORD</u>	Fairmont	1980	1980	255cid
31	<u>FORD</u>	Granada	1980	1980	255cid
32	<u>FORD</u>	Mustang	1980	1980	255cid
33	<u>LINCOLN</u>	Versailles	1980	1980	351cid
34	<u>MERCURY</u>	Colony Park	1977	1977	400cid
35	<u>MERCURY</u>	Colony Park	1979	1980	302cid
36	<u>MERCURY</u>	Colony Park	1979	1980	351cid
37	<u>MERCURY</u>	Grand Marquis	1977	1977	351cid
38	<u>MERCURY</u>	Grand Marquis	1977	1977	400cid
39	<u>MERCURY</u>	Grand Marquis	1979	1980	302cid
40	<u>MERCURY</u>	Grand Marquis	1979	1980	351cid
41	<u>MERCURY</u>	Zephyr	1980	1980	255cid
42	<u>MERCURY</u>	Monarch	1979	1980	302cid
43	<u>MERCURY</u>	Monarch	1980	1980	255cid
44	<u>MERCURY</u>	Bobcat	1975	1975	2300cc
45	<u>MERCURY</u>	Cougar	1977	1977	400cid
46	<u>MERCURY</u>	Cougar	1977	1979	351cid
47	<u>MERCURY</u>	Cougar	1980	1980	255cid
48	<u>MERCURY</u>	Cougar	1979	1980	302cid
49	<u>MERCURY</u>	Capri	1977	1977	2300cc
50	<u>MERCURY</u>	Capri	1979	1979	2300cc
51	<u>MERCURY</u>	Capri	1979	1979	302cid
52	<u>MERCURY</u>	Capri	1980	1980	255cid

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- d) Based upon analysis of field returns, customer input, product sampling and durability testing, product non conformance is isolated to product manufactured week 42 of 2007, and printed with date code 0742. Based upon shipping records, the suspect product was shipped from Purolator Filters NA LLC for F10024 between 14 January, 2008 and 12 February, 2008. Inventory of the suspect product was contained at both Intercontinental and Purolator on February 13, 2008.
- e) Other Information to distinguish the item to be recalled:
- i. Filter, Unit Box, Master Cartons identified as: "Made In China"
 - ii. Intercontinental Auto Parts ALG-44/1 Filter identified with date code 0742.
 - iii. Purolator Unit Box identified with the following date code prefix: 80xx.
 - iv. Purolator Master Carton identified with one of the following date code prefixes: D01U or D02U.
 - v. Product that satisfies the dimensional sort criteria is marked with a permanent paint dot on the outlet cap. The Master Cartons into which this product is being packaged at Purolator are marked with a label that reads 2008 QC Certified. Purolator shipment of F10024 will commence when permitted by their customers. Master Cartons for conforming product shipped from Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc. are identified with a green dot dated with the date of inspection.

(3) Total Number of Filters Recalled Potentially Containing the Defect:

F10024- 1,937 filters shipped between 14 January, 2008 and 13 February, 2008

(4) Approximate Percentage of ALG-44/1, Purolator F10024, Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect: 10%

(5) Description of Defect:

- a) Defect: The outlet cap can become separated from the filter housing resulting in a Fuel Leak.
- b) Cause: Unsatisfactory crimp of the outlet cap to the filter housing during the manufacturing process/assembly operations.
- c) Consequences: ALG-44/1, F10024. Upon installation the filter could separate. After installation, if the outlet cap of filter separates from the filter housing, it would result in a fuel leak.
- d) Potential Early Warning: Cap could separate from the filter housing during the installation process or procedure.

(6) Chronology:

- a) 13 February, 2008—Problem first reported to Purolator Filters NA LLC, by a customer. The customer reported the outlet cap had separated from the filter housing during filter installation. There have been no warranty claims. There have not been any other reported concerns from any other customers.
- b) 13 February, 2008—Purolator quarantined all inventory, and initiated investigation including notification of Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc.
- c) February 13 through February 25--Investigation of condition. Determination of cause and identification of population involved.
- d) 20 February 2008—Purolator issued sales and Marketing Bulletin FP08-03 F10024 Retailers- Isolation and Return Communication.
- e) 25 February 2008—Intercontinental decision that a safety defect exists and that a recall should be instituted.

- f) Purolator and Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc. have determined and validated an effective means of sorting the inventory.
- i) Product that satisfies the dimensional criteria is not at risk of separating
 - ii) Product that does not satisfy the dimensional criteria might or might not separate.
- The units that do not separate do not leak.
- g) Product that has been certified at Intercontinental Auto Parts, ALG-44/1 and which is not subject to this recall has been shipped to Purolator since 18 February, 2008.

(7) *Remedy:*

Intercontinental will replace the fuel filters free of charge. If the filter has not been installed, the customer may return it to Intercontinental and receive a free replacement. If the filter has been installed and the customer wishes to replace the filter themselves, the customer may destroy the old filter and receive reimbursement from Intercontinental upon submission of appropriate documentation. If the subject filter has been installed on a motor vehicle, the customer may take the vehicle to a service facility of choice, and Intercontinental will reimburse them for the cost of the filter and a reasonable and customary cost for the installation of a new filter based upon Chilton standard hourly times for fuel filter replacement. Parts are available to begin this recall immediately upon the appropriate approvals from NHTSA. All of the fuel filters were under warranty.

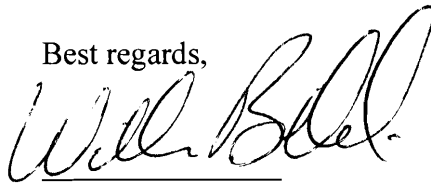
(8) *Representative copies of notices and bulletins:*

Representative copies of notices and bulletins are attached. Intercontinental is still working on the layout of placards that will be sent to Purolator customers.

(9) *Manufacturer's campaign number:*

Intercontinental intends to use the number assigned by NHTSA.

Best regards,



William Billich

Customer and Technical Service Manager

March __, 2008

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

TO: All Purchasers of Purolator Filters NA LLC part number **F10024** manufactured by Shanghai Inter Auto Parts Co., LTD and imported & distributed by Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc., Ramsey, NJ

NOTICE: Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc., Ramsey, NJ(Intercontinental)

Fuel Filter Recall - NHTSA Recall need to insert recall number

Dear Purolator Filters NA LCC Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc., Ramsey, NJ has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain production runs of Shanghai Inter Auto Parts Co., LTD fuel filter part number ALG 44/1, corresponding to Purolator part number F10024. The filter's outlet cap might not be securely crimped to the housing. This could result in separation of the filter's outlet cap from the housing. If this condition occurs while attempting to start the vehicle, a no start condition may result and fuel may be pumped out onto the ground. If this condition occurs while the vehicle is in motion, the engine may stop due to inadequate fuel supply. If an ignition source were present, fuel leakage may result in a fire.

Identification of fuel filter covered by the recall:

The Intercontinental filters were shipped by Purolator Filters NA LLC to its customers between January 14, 2008 and February 12, 2008. The suspect filters can be identified as follows:

- Purolator filter part number F10024, and
- The filter metal body is silver or gold in color, and
- The filter country of origin 'Made in China', and

The following code is printed on the filter: **0742'**

NOTE: Part number F10024 fuel filters with country of origin 'Made in USA' are not involved in this recall. Fuel filters identified as part number F10024 with a green dot on the outlet cap of the fuel filter also are not covered by this recall, even if they have the code 0742. These filters with the green dot have been verified as meeting applicable specifications.

WHAT WILL BE DONE?

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Intercontinental will replace the fuel filters free of charge. If the filter has not been installed, the customer may return it to Intercontinental and receive a free replacement. If the filter has been installed and the customer wishes to replace the filter themselves, the customer may destroy the old filter and receive reimbursement from Intercontinental upon submission of appropriate documentation. If the subject filter has been installed on a motor vehicle, the customer may take the vehicle to a service facility of choice, and Intercontinental Auto Parts will reimburse them for the cost of the filter and a reasonable and customary cost for the installation of a new filter based upon Chilton standard hourly times for fuel filter replacement. Parts are available to begin this recall immediately upon the appropriate approvals from NHTSA. All of the fuel filters were under warranty.

To receive reimbursement for the parts and service, the customer should provide all of the following information to **Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc. at 133 Williams Drive, Ramsey NJ 07446.**

- Customer name and address;
- Vehicle Make and Model;
- Original Invoice
- Date Code of the Replaced Part; and
- A copy of your invoice(s) for the replacement part and/or installation.

Please remember, the only recalled filter is Purolator filter part number F10024. The filter country of origin '**Made in China**' followed by the code '**0742**' is printed on the body of the filter.

Communication:

If you conclude that Intercontinental has not enabled you to remedy this condition in a reasonable time, you may call Intercontinental at (800) 451-2593. If you are still not satisfied, you may submit a complaint to the:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

- or -

Call the toll free Vehicle Safety Hotline: 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153): or go to
<http://www.safercar.gov>.

We regret any inconvenience that this situation may cause. Purolator and Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc. want to assure you that we are concerned for customer safety and your continued satisfaction with our products.

Sincerely,
Shanghai Inter Auto Parts Co., LTD (Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc.)

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March __, 2008

MEMO TO PUROLATOR CUSTOMERS

TO: Purchasers from Purolator of Purolator Filters NA LLC part number **F10024** manufactured by Shanghai Inter Auto Parts Co., LTD and imported & distributed by Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc., Ramsey, NJ

**NOTICE: Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc., Ramsey, NJ (Intercontinental)
Fuel Filter Recall - NHTSA Recall need to insert recall number**

Dear Purolator Filters NA LLC Customer:

Name
Address
Address

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Intercontinental has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain production runs of Shanghai Inter Auto Parts Co., LTD fuel filter part number ALG 44/1, corresponding to Purolator part number **F10024**. The filter's outlet cap might not be securely crimped to the housing. This could result in separation of the filter's outlet cap from the housing. If this condition occurs while attempting to start the vehicle, a no start condition may result and fuel may be pumped out onto the ground. If this condition occurs while the vehicle is in motion, the engine may stop due to inadequate fuel supply. If an ignition source were present, fuel leakage may result in a fire.

Identification of fuel filters covered by the recall:

Intercontinental filters were shipped by Purolator Filters NA LLC to its customers between January 14, 2008 and February 12, 2008. The suspect filters can be identified as follows:

- Purolator filter part number **F10024**, and
- The filter metal body is silver or gold in color, and
- The filter country of origin '**Made in China**', and
- The following code is printed on the filter: **0724**
- Purolator Unit Box identified with the following date code prefix: 80xx
- Purolator Master Carton identified with one of the following date code prefixes: D01Uxxx or D02Uxxx

NOTE: Part number F10024 fuel filters with country of origin 'Made in USA' are not involved in this recall. Fuel filters identified as part number F10024 with a green dot on the

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outlet cover of the fuel filter also are not covered by this recall, even if they have code 0742. The filters with the green dot have been verified as meeting the applicable specifications.

RECOMMENDED ACTION REGARDING UNSOLD PRODUCT

(NEW PRODUCT THAT HAS NOT BEEN INSTALLED)

1. If you have 125 or less units to return, call Purolator Customer Service (800-637-0580) and they will issue a UPS Call Tag for the units to be picked up at your location and shipped freight collect to Purolator; the suspect units will be picked up within the next 10 days.
2. If you have 126 or more units to return, contact your local Roadway terminal to arrange for a freight collect shipment to Purolator or visit their website at <http://www.roadway.com/tools/pu.html> to arrange for a freight collect shipment to Purolator.
 - When preparing your shipping container, mark the outside shipping container with the RGA# referenced in the attached RGA document.
 - Ship the isolated units of F10024 to Purolator NA LLC at the below address:
Purolator Filters NA LLC
3200 Natal Road
Fayetteville, NC 28306
Attn: Janice Wheeler
3. Upon receipt of the returned units, credit will be issued immediately.
4. Submit a replenishment order during your next regular order cycle.

RECOMMENDED ACTION REGARDING SOLD PRODUCTS

If you have sold one or more of the filters subject to the recall, you should attempt to notify your customer(s) to return the part for a replacement filter, free of charge. Please refer to the "SAFETY RECALL PLACEMENT FUEL FILTER NOTICE" placard, enclosed with this letter. This placard should be prominently displayed at all the retail locations where the filter was sold. In addition, attached is a customer letter that you can send to any of your customers.

As stated in the enclosed letter, Intercontinental will reimburse those customers who have the suspect filters for the cost of the replacement filter and a reasonable amount for installation of the new filter, based upon Chilton standard hourly times for fuel filter replacement. To receive reimbursement for the parts and service, the customer should provide all of the following information to **Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc., 133 Williams Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446--Attention: William Billich.**

- Customer name;
- Vehicle Make and Model;
- Original invoice of the replaced part;
- Date code of the replaced part; and
- A copy of the invoice (for the replacement part and installation).

If you do not have service capabilities and your customer wants a service facility to install the filter, please provide them with the attached letter that states that they may have their filter installed by a service facility of their choice, and that Intercontinental will reimburse them for the cost of the replacement filter and a reasonable amount for the costs of filter installation.

Please remember, the only recalled filter is Purolator filter part number F10024. The filter metal body is silver or gold in color. The filter country of origin 'Made in China' is printed on the body of the filter along with the following code: 0742.

Communication:

If you conclude that Intercontinental has not enabled you to remedy this condition in a reasonable time, you may call Intercontinental at 1-800-451-2593. If you are still not satisfied, you may submit a complaint to the:

Administrator
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

- or -

Call the toll free Vehicle Safety Hotline: 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We regret any inconvenience that this situation may cause. Purolator and Intercontinental want to assure you that we are concerned for customer safety and your continued satisfaction with our products.

Sincerely,
Purolator Filters NA LLC

Enclosures

- SAFETY RECALL PLACARD
- SAFETY RECALL NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS

Purolator Filters NA LLC

Sales & Marketing Bulletin

Bulletin Number: FP08-03

February 20, 2008

CUSTOMER: Purolator Filter Customers

SUBJECT: Fuel Filter Inventory Isolation

FROM: Product Quality Assurance

Please be advised that Purolator Filters NA LLC and its supplier, Intercontinental Auto Parts, Inc., are looking into potential assembly issues with fuel filter part number F10024 which has been supplied to your company. The products being reviewed are identified with a specific country of origin and product date code.

1. The filters, unit boxes, and master cartons are imprinted with "Made in China"
2. This product was packaged starting in November 2007. The packaging is marked with the following unique information:
 - a. The date code on the unit box begins with the digits 73xx or 80xx
 - b. The date code on the master carton label begins with one of the following codes
 - i. D11T
 - ii. D12T
 - iii. D01U
 - iv. D02U

We are requesting that you:

- Place these products on shipping hold
- Inspect your product inventories to determine if you have any inventories of part number F10024 with the referenced identifiers
- Isolate any inventories of part number F10024 with the referenced identifiers

After auditing your inventory and isolating the above filters:

- Call Customer Service at 800-637-0580 and inform them of the number of units that are in your inventory and reference the attached RGA. If the RGA is not attached, Purolator Customer Service will issue you an RGA for the return of the isolated units.
- If you have 125 or less units, Purolator Customer Service will issue a UPS Call Tag for the units to be picked up at your location.
- If you have 126 or more units, please use the issued RGA# and can contact your local Roadway terminal directly to arrange for a freight collect shipment pick up or you can visit their website at <http://www.roadway.com/tools/pu.html> to arrange for this pick up service
- Prior to making the shipment, mark the outside shipping container with the assigned RGA#
- Ship the merchandise to:

Purolator Filters NA LLC
3200 Natal Road
Fayetteville, NC 28306
Attn: Janice Wheeler
- Upon merchandise receipt, 100% credit will be issued within 30 days
- Submit a replenishment order during your next regular order cycle, conforming units will be shipped to you immediately. **Conforming** product is being identified with the following distinct identifiers:
 - Each filter has a paint dot applied to the face of the outlet cover
 - A "green OK dot" sticker has been applied to each master carton

We thank you for your continued support and apologize for this inconvenience.