mercruiser
STERN DRIVES & INBOARDS

service bulletin

TO: SERVICE MANAGER ☐ TECHNICIANS ☐
PARTS MANAGER ☐

No. 88-13

Official Notification Under the U.S. Federal Boat Safety Act

Required Spark Plug Wire Replacement

AFFECTED MERCRUISER MODELS

MCM 2.5L	S/N OB835073-OC392560
MCM 3.0L	S/N OB835868-OC395568
MCM 3.7L	S/N OB835401-OC390889
MCM 3.7LX	S/N OB836101-OC394888
MCM 4.3L	S/N OB835535-OC390944
MCM 4.3LX	S/N OB838501-OC393687
MCM 5.0L	S/N OB836267-OC393400
MCM 5.0LX	S/N OB836500-OC390444
MCM 5.7L	S/N OB835052-OC392235
MCM 5.7L Bravo Two	S/N OC317495-OC386429
MCM 350 Mag	S/N OB838987-OC390018
MCM 7.4L Alpha One	S/N OB948174-OC392799
MCM 7.4L Bravo One	S/N OB836212-OC390576
MCM 7.4L Bravo Two	S/N OB836212-OC390149
MCM 454 Mag. Bravo One	S/N OB836761-OC390149
MCM 5.7L TR	S/N OB859709-OB860991
MCM 7.4L TR	S/N OB859269-OB860991
MCM HP 320 EFI	S/N OB859101-OB860991
MCM HP 420	S/N OB859132-OB860991
MCM HP 575	S/N OB858874-OB860991
MIE 5.0L	S/N OB788177-OC335746
MIE 5.7L	S/N OB793207-OC335861
MIE 5.7L Ski	S/N OB792802-OC391807
MIE 7.4L	S/N OB834064-OC391568

AFFECTED SEA RAY MODELS

3.0L	S/N OB836397-OC392068
4.3L2	S/N OB836860-OC392899
4.3L4	S/N OB837372-OC390320
5.7L	S/N OB835052-OC390627
SRX 5.7L	S/N OB837358-OB918998
SRX 7.4L	S/N OB836685-OB924856
SRX 7.4L-H	S/N OB919334-OB919342
5.7L Inboard	S/N OB793207-OC335860
7.4L Inboard	S/N OB834064-OC391567

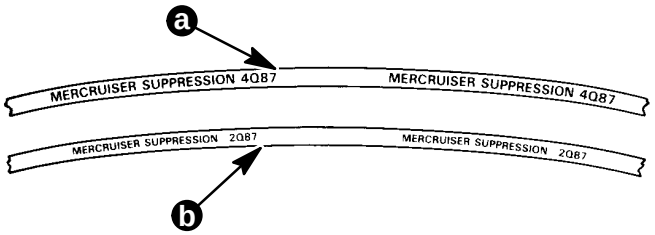
AFFECTED REPLACEMENT SPARK PLUG WIRE SETS PURCHASED FROM MERCURY MARINE BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1, 1987 AND JUNE 1, 1988.

84-43376A 1	84-43376A7
84-43376A2	84-43376A8
84-43376A3	84-43376A9
84-43376A4	84-43376A10
84-43376A5	84-43376A11
84-43376A6	84-43376A12

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Mercury Marine has determined that the spark plug wires on some MerCruiser or Sea Ray power packages (model numbers and serial numbers specified previously) must be replaced to eliminate the possibility of premature insulation breakdown, potential electrical arcing and to prevent a potential fire or explosion hazard.

Insulation breakdown only occurs in a certain brand of spark plug wire supplied to Mercury Marine by a vendor. Refer to Figure 1 for identification of the two different wires. Inspect all wires on the engine or in replacement wire sets because sets may have both types of wires in them. If (a) type wire is found, order complete new wire set for engine. Refer to chart for correct ordering information.



a - Approximately 1/8 in. (3.0mm) High White Printing on Wire -This Type of Wire Must Be Replaced

b - Approximately 1/16 in. (1.5mm) High White or Yellow Printing on Wire - This Type of Wire is All Right to Use

Figure 1.

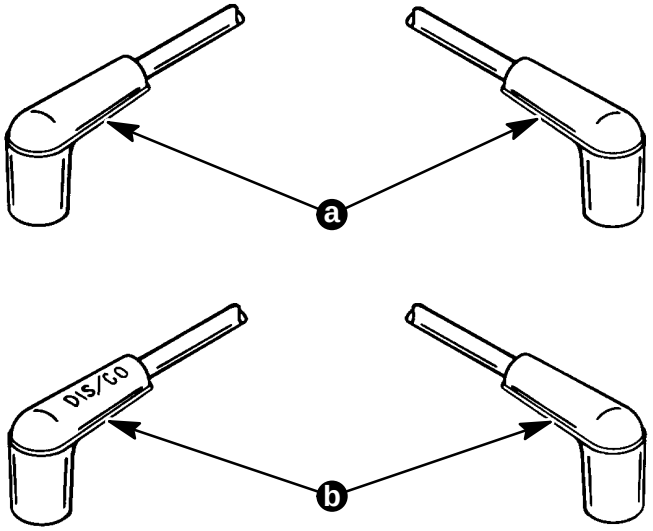
1. All owners of registered MerCruiser or Sea Ray Stern Drive or Inboard power packages that are affected by this recall: They will be sent a letter (copy attached), a campaign card (copy attached), and a set of spark plug wires for his/her engine(s). The spark plug wire set will be sent no charge to the owner of the boat and he can have any authorized dealer install the wire set on the engine(s). The owner is to sign and give the campaign card to the dealer. The dealer is to send the campaign card to his Regional Service Center for warranty payment for labor. Do not reuse old wires. Cut old wires in half and scrap.

2. Boats in dealer stock or that are sold but not registered yet: Dealer is to order correct spark plug wire set (from chart) and install on engine(s). Fill out warranty claim and send to your Regional Service Center. More than one engine can be put on each warranty claim as long as each engine model, serial number, wire set part number, and labor time is listed on one line for each engine. Cut old wires in half and scrap.

3. Replacement spark plug wire kits that were sold over the counter or installed by your dealership on customer engines: Order correct spark plug wire set (from chart). Contact all customers that you have sold these sets to. Install or exchange the old sets with the new sets. Fill out warranty claim. Send wire set(s) and claim to your Regional Service Center.

⚠ WARNING

Thunderbolt IV (HEI) spark plug wires must be installed with black or DIS/CO boot on distributor cap only. DO NO T install black or DIS/CO boot on spark plug because boot will not withstand high temperatures given off by exhaust manifold. (Figure 2)



a - Thunderbolt (HEI) Wire with a Black Boot on One End and a Gray Boot on the Other End - Black Boot Must Be Installed Only on Distributor Cap

b - Thunderbolt (HEI) Wire with DIS/CO on Black Boot on One End and Plain Gray or Black on the Other End - DIS/CO Boot Must Be Installed Only on Distributor Cap

Figure 2.

4. Warranty flat rate codes and times:

MCM 2.5L - MCM 3.7LX	0.5 hr.
MCM 4.3L - MCM 454 Mag.	1.0 hr.
MIE 5.0L-7.4L	1.0 hr.
Sea Ray 3.0L	0.5 hr.
Sea Ray 4.3L2 - SRX 7.4L-H	1.0 hr.
HP 320 EFI - HP 575	1.0 hr.

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Affected New Power Package Models	Affected Replacement Spark Plug Wire Set		Order This New Wire Set
MCM 2.5L, 3.0L Sea Ray 3.0L	MCM 153/181 CID (4-Cyl.)	84-43376A5	84-813720A5
None	MCM 150/160/165 (6-Cyl.)	84-43376A8	84-813720A8
MCM 3.7L, 3.7LX	MCM/MIE 224 CID (4-Cyl.)	84-43376A6	84-813720A6
None	MCM 185 229 CID (V-6)	84-43376A7	84-813720A7
MCM 4.3L, 4.3LX Sea Ray 4.3L2, 4.3L4	Thunderbolt IV (HEI) MCM 262 CID (V-6)	84-43376A11	84-813720A11
None	Conventional Ignition MCM 888/215/225/233/255 (Ford) MCM 898/228/250/260/280 (G.M.) MIE 215/225/233/255 (Ford) MIE 198/228/225 (G.M.)	84-43376A9	84-813720A9
MCM 5.0L, 5.0LX, 5.7L, 360 Mag, HP 320 EFI, Sea Ray 5.7L, SRX 5.7L	Thunderbolt IV (HEI) MCM 305/350 CID (V-8) MIE 305/350 CID (L.H. Rotation) (V-8)	84-43376A4	84-813720A4
MCM 260TR MIE 5.0L, 5.7L, Inboards (L.H. & R.H. Rotation) Sea Ray 5.7L Inboards (L.H. & R.H. Rotation)	Thunderbolt IV (HEI) MIE 305/350 CID (R.H. Rotation) (V-8)	84-43376A3	84-813720A3
None	Conventional Ignition MCM 330/370/400/440/460 (V-8) MIE 330 (V-8)	84-43376A10	84-813720A10
MCM 454 Mag. 7.4L, HP 420, 330TR MIE 7.4L Inboard (L.H. & R.H. Rotation) Sea Ray SRX 7.4L, SRX 7.4 L-H Sea Ray 7.4L Inboard (L.H. & R.H. Rotation)	Thunderbolt IV (HEI) MCM 454 CID (V-8) MIE 454 CID (L.H. Rotation) (V-8)	84-43376A2	84-813720A2
	Thunderbolt IV (HEI) MIE 454 CID (R.H. Rotation) (V-8)	84-43376A1	
MIE 5.7L Ski (L.H. & R.H. Rotation)	MIE 5.7 Ski (V-8)	84-4376A12	84-813720A12

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Dear MerCruiser Owner:

Our records indicate you are the owner of a MerCruiser engine which Mercury has determined is included in a recall.

Mercury Marine has discovered that the spark plug lead wires on your engine may develop cracks. This is a usage-related condition and may not yet have developed on your motor. However, a cracked spark plug lead wire creates the potential for electrical arcing which, if a fuel source is present, can result in a fire or explosion. Therefore, Mercury has developed this product recall program to eliminate any such risk or concern.

Enclosed with this letter is a recall campaign claim card. In a separate mailing you will soon receive a replacement spark plug lead wire kit for your engine which eliminates any risk associated with spark plug lead wires cracking. To accomplish the replacement please take the following steps:

1. Call your local authorized MerCruiser dealer to make an appointment for kit installation. MerCruiser dealers are aware of this program and are waiting to be of service to you.
2. Deliver your MerCruiser-equipped boat, claim card and kit to your dealer for installation.

Installation can normally be accomplished in one hour or less, but it is important that the kit be dealer installed since improper installation could result in improper engine operation. It is not necessary to stop using your boat pending this corrective step, but we remind you to adequately ventilate your engine compartment and run your blowers before starting your boat.

The replacement kit and all installation activities will be performed without any charge to you. Mercury Marine apologizes for this inconvenience. We take this action in the interest of your safety, and hope for your continued satisfaction with our product.

If you have sold your boat, please pass this letter and the kit along to your buyer and drop us a note with his name and address so we can follow up.

Sincerely,

Mercury Marine Service Department

W6250 WEST PIONEER ROAD • P.O. BOX 1939 • FOND DU LAC, WI 54936-1939 U.S.A. • PHONE (414) 929-5000 • FAX (414) 929-5060

MerCruiser Stern Drives and Inboards are products of the Mercury Marine Division of Brunswick Corporation

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MERCURY MARINE

MERCURY MARINE
A BRUNSWICK COMPANY
FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN 54935

CAMPAIGN CLAIM

Printed in U.S.A. SIS-1008

TE 10427

CAMPAIGN NO.	DEALER REPAIR NO.	DATE OF REPAIR	HOURS PRODUCT OPER.	DATE RECEIVED	ALLOW HRS.

PARTS ALLOWANCE WILL BE CALCULATED AT TIME OF CREDIT.

PLEASE PRESENT THIS FORM WITH YOUR DESCRIBED PRODUCT TO YOUR AUTHORIZED DEALER AS SPECIFIED IN YOUR LETTER IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED SERVICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED DEALER HEREBY CERTIFIES THAT HE PERFORMED THE INDICATED WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SERVICE MANUAL AND APPLICABLE SERVICE BULLETIN AND HEREBY APPLIES FOR CREDIT ALLOWED ON THE INFORMATION SHOWN THEREIN.

Use Dealer Identification Plate - Imprint Here

TO

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE HERE INDICATES COMPLETION OF REPAIRS BY DEALER	DEALER SIGNATURE

Sea Ray

SEA RAY
A BRUNSWICK COMPANY

CAMPAIGN CLAIM

Printed in U.S.A. SIS-1009

TE 10493

CAMPAIGN NO.	DEALER REPAIR NO.	DATE OF REPAIR	HOURS PRODUCT OPER.	DATE RECEIVED	ALLOW HRS.

PARTS ALLOWANCE WILL BE CALCULATED AT TIME OF CREDIT.

PLEASE PRESENT THIS FORM WITH YOUR DESCRIBED PRODUCT TO YOUR AUTHORIZED DEALER AS SPECIFIED IN YOUR LETTER IN ORDER TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED SERVICE.

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TO

CUSTOMER SIGNATURE HERE INDICATES COMPLETION OF REPAIRS BY DEALER	DEALER SIGNATURE

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