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Model: All Lotus Vehicles

Number: 2020/01
USA

Copy files should be maintained by:

Service Manager		Service Reception		Supervisor		Parts Manager	
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TITLE:

Any unauthorised modifications, including fitment of non-approved after-market air filter resulting in generation of diagnostic trouble codes (DTC's) P0101 & P1109.

SUMMARY:

Dealers are reminded of existing Lotus Warranty Policy (extract from policy and procedures manual):

Vehicle Conditions That May Void Manufacturers Limited Vehicle Warranty; items that are not covered

- No warranty responsibility will be accepted by Lotus where the part has required repair or replacement or the vehicle has required repair under the following circumstances:
- Performance of service, repair, alteration or modification of the motor vehicle other than in accordance with the recommended servicing and repair procedures of Lotus Cars USA, Inc. Or the fitment of a part, assembly or component does not conform to Lotus Cars USA, Inc. specifications

The owners handbook also contains a similar statement within the OBLIGATIONS OF OWNERS section:

- "If any non-Lotus part is fitted, such part is not covered by the Limited Warranty. Further, any original part affected or damaged by the fitment or usage of such non-Lotus part will not be covered by the Limited Warranty."

REASON:

Specifically, we have had several instances where DTC's P0101 & P1109 had been set and the car recovered into the dealer, only for them to find that the original equipment engine air intake filter had been substituted for a non-approved after-market type (applicable to both dry and oil coated types). Whilst these filters may alter the induction noise, our testing has concluded there is no performance advantage achieved by fitting an aftermarket air filter of this type on a Lotus vehicle. In fact, fitment of such filters may cause some of the issues as listed below:

- Part load fuel learns differed between the aftermarket and standard air filter, and although this was not an issue with use on the dynamometer, there could be an increased risk of MIL events and fault codes being set in normal use.
- Contamination of the MAF (Mass Airflow Flow) sensor from the oil used on many aftermarket filters was found and this will likely impact the reliability and accuracy of the MAF sensor readings over time.
- Trace oil build up on the MAF from an aftermarket air filter may impact emissions.
- Potential risk of MAF sensor reliability.
- Potential risk of emissions compliance issues, any MAF or fuelling change could impact IUPRM, if diagnostics are not completed as required.

In the event of the actual MAF reading being incorrect, this can impact on many functions:

- Potential of MAF, MAF to MAP or MAF to TPS correlation issues, fault code & MIL events.
- MAF errors impacting engine performance, through incorrect fuelling & ignition.
- MAF errors leading to false triggering of fault codes.

Continued..

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MAF is also the main input used in the calculation of torque. In the event of torque being in error, any function that uses torque will also be in error, such as automatic transmission shift learns because:

- Automatic shift learns are in torque bands between 2 and 209 Nm.
- If the transmission sees a steady MAF reading that equates to 66, 85, 126, 167 or 209 Nm it may schedule a clutch or brake learn, if however this is not actually 66, 85, 126, 167 or 209 Nm (due to a MAF error), the learn for that torque band will be incorrect and shift quality will be adversely affected.

ACTION:

Before working on any Lotus vehicle, it should be inspected for the fitment of any unauthorised:

- Parts.
- Accessories.
- Modifications.

If an inspection (or subsequent investigation), confirms the vehicle has been fitted with any non-authorised parts or modified in any way that could cause an issue with its safety, reliability or durability, then Lotus reserves the right to refuse warranty and decline any associated costs with the repair, including recovery and repatriation to and from the dealership or workshop.

The owner will be expected to pay for all repairs and associated costs.

Before performing a vehicle repair that is assumed would be covered under the terms of the Lotus vehicle warranty, dealers are respectfully reminded to review the Warranty Policy and Procedures manual which can be downloaded from the Lotus Dealer Portal.

From the home page go to: Aftersales> 1. Aftersales Warranty & Parts User Guides - New Dealers Please Review.

CHARGES:

No warranty charges are associated with the contents of this bulletin.

Ends.

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