



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-017
Date Opened: 04/07/2005
Principal Investigator: Cheryl Rose
Subject: Engine Stall

Manufacturer: Saab Cars USA, Inc.
Products: 2000-2002 Saab 9-3 and 1999-2002 Saab 9-5 w/4-cyl. engines
Population: 119,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: The ignition discharge module (IDM) fails causing the engine to shut down and stall suddenly.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	35	0	35
Crashes/Fires:	3	0	3
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	2	0	2

*Description Of Other: Reports of non-stall drivability problems due to a damaged IDM cassette.

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

Engineer: Cheryl Rose

Date: 04/07/2005

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 04/07/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/07/2005

Summary: ODI has received 35 reports of alleged engine stalling due to the failure of the ignition discharge module (IDM) "cassette" on the subject vehicles. Twelve (12) complaints were received on model year (MY) 2000-2002 Saab 9-3 vehicles and 23 on MY 1999-2002 9-5 vehicles. All complainants reported that the engine shut down suddenly without warning and most reported that the vehicle would not restart. In three (3) incidents, the complainants reported smoke and/or flames resulted from the IDM module failure. The majority of the incidents reportedly occurred between 40 to 75 mph.

At least five (5) complainants reported damage to the catalytic converter from raw fuel being pumped through the engine. In addition, two (2) complainants, shown in "other" in the failure report summary above, attributed non-stall drivability problems to the damaged IDM.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency, and potential safety-related consequences of the alleged defect.

VRT
4-7-05