



SAAB CARS USA, INC.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

May 18, 2001

**Sent Via Certified Mail**

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

01V-168 ①

**RE: INITIAL NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT – SAAB 15200**

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Pursuant to the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and as the agent of Saab Automobile AB, Saab Cars USA, Inc. (hereafter "Saab") informs you of a determination by Saab Automobile AB that a noncompliance with FMVSS 208 can exist in certain model year 2001 Saab passenger cars imported into the United States.

Within the initial estimation of the production ranges specified in the attached report, Saab has determined that the air bag alert labels may not be permanently affixed as required in Part 571.208, S4.5.1[c]. These cars will be recalled by Saab for further preparation of the sunvisor surfaces and application of new air bag alert labels.

This noncompliance was brought to Saab's attention during a FMVSS 208 compliance test on April 19, 2001. Saab has had no reports of any in-use difficulties or consumer complaints resulting from this noncompliance. Remedy of this noncompliance is anticipated to involve a "cleaning" of the sunvisor surfaces and application of new labels on both the driver and passenger sides.

Enclosed is the Initial Noncompliance Information Report for this recall. As required by 49 CFR Part 573.5 (c)(9), copies of all notices, bulletins and other communications that relate directly to this recall will be submitted to you within five (5) days after being sent to Saab dealers or owners.

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Please advise us of NHTSA's specific reference number assignment for this recall as soon as it is available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Plante". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Gerald Plante  
Manager, Compliance  
& Technical Liaison

Attachment

**INITIAL NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT (MOTOR VEHICLES)**

(Pursuant to the Requirements of S573.5 Title 49 of CFR)

Type of Determination:  Noncompliance.Date of This Report: May 18, 2001Recall Numbers: 15200 Saab \_\_\_ NHTSAManufacturer Name: Saab Automobile ABAgent (Importer): Saab Cars USA, Inc.**IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLES POTENTIALLY CONTAINING THE NONCOMPLIANCE:****Make:** Saab

Model Years	Model	Production Dates		VIN Range(s)	Number of Vehicles Affected
		From	To		
9-3	2001	7/25/00		YS3D.....	
			4/20/01	17000001 - 17015840	7,759
				12000001 - 12049895	9,834
9-5	2001	7/25/00		YS3E.....	
			4/20/01	13000001 - 13052076	20,648
				Total Vehicles Affected:	Approx. 38,241
				Percentage Estimated To Contain Defect:	100%

The above population of cars includes all 2001 model year Saabs up to the date that the air bag alert label adhesion problem was brought to Saab's attention. This is a very early determination and may be changed as new information is available. After April 20<sup>th</sup>, Saab Automobile AB implemented an additional "cleaning" operation on all sunvisors at the supplier and in production in order to ensure that the label adheres properly to the sunvisor surface. The sunvisor air bag warning label on the other side is not affected as it is affixed to the plastic mirror cover.

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**DESCRIPTION OF NONCOMPLIANCE:**

The air bag alert label does not remain permanently affixed to the sunvisor surface. At this stage of Saab Automobile's investigation, this appears to have been caused by the supplier ["FICO"] of the sunvisor. Analysis by Saab Automobile indicates that some type of silicon-like residue may be present on the sunvisor vinyl surface that could prevent the label from adhering properly. This residue may have come from the supplier's tooling.

However, Saab Automobile is continuing to discuss what production changes by FICO could have caused this adhesion problem.

**PRINCIPAL EVENTS THAT WERE BASIS FOR THE NONCOMPLIANCE DETERMINATION:**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| April 19, 2001 | The NHTSA Compliance Engineer at a FMVSS 208 test pointed out that the alert labels on the test vehicle [MY01 Saab 9-5] were starting to lift off the sunvisor around the edges.  |
| April 20, 2001 | This information was passed along to the Regulatory Affairs section at Saab Automobile AB and an investigation is initiated. Production staff at Saab and the supplier were immediately alerted.  |
| May 10, 2001   | A technical review of discussions with the supplier and sunvisor analysis reveals that residue of a substance similar to silicon could be the cause of the inadequate alert label adhesion. A recommendation was made to forward the matter to the Saab Automobile AB campaign committee. |
| May 18, 2001   | Saab Automobile AB determined that the noncompliance exists and informed Saab Cars USA, Inc. to recall the affected vehicles.   |

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**DESCRIPTION OF MANUFACTURER'S PROGRAM FOR NONCOMPLIANCE  
REMEDY:**

For the affected cars, owners will be contacted (pursuant to the requirements of S577.5, Title 49 of the CFR) by mail and asked to make an appointment with an authorized Saab dealer. At this time, the expected remedy will involve some sort of cleaning of the sunvisor surface and application of a new air bag alert label on both sunvisors. It is also possible that a change in the label adhesive may also be part of the recall remedy.

Dealers will be instructed on the recall procedure and to monitor their Saab Dealer Communications System for any "uncompleted" cars. Dealers will also be instructed that they must complete the remedy on all affected vehicles in their inventory prior to delivery to any customers. The approximate time for a dealer to complete this remedy is .1 hour. This remedy will be performed at no charge to the owner.

Owners with questions will be told in the owner notification letter that they can call (toll-free) the Saab Customer Assistance Center or ask their Saab dealer for assistance.

**RECALL IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:**

This recall will be conducted in the U.S. for all affected Saab cars. Saab foresees an implementation along the lines of the following schedule:

July 1, 2001	Notice and instructions to dealers on the recall decision via IRIS e-mail. Instructions will include a directive to postpone affected new car deliveries until new labels can be affixed.
July 15, 2001	Remedy instructions and an initial supply of labels sent to U.S. Saab dealers.
July 30, 2001	Estimated date by which owner notification letters can be printed and sent.