



SAAB CARS USA, INC.

OIV-168
Supplement

June 1, 2001

Sent Via Certified Mail

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

Re: Revised Non-Compliance 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 2000 and 2001 Saab passenger cars imported into the United States.

The initial noncompliance report concerning this item was submitted to your office via certified mail on May 18, 2001. Since submission of that report, Saab has found that this noncompliance also affects addition models, primarily 2000 model year variants, that were not included in the initial report. In addition, the Saab 9-3 Convertible was included in the initial report, but has since been found to be in compliance and has therefore been removed from this revised report. The revised vehicle identification number ranges of these models are contained in the attached report.

In the revised 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 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 will involve a "cleaning" of the sunvisor surfaces and application of new labels on both the driver and passenger sides.

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Enclosed is the 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.

The NHTSA assigned specific reference number for this recall is 01V-168.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary T. Jones" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Gary T. Jones

Manager, Product &
Emissions Compliance

Attachment

NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT (MOTOR VEHICLES)
(Pursuant to the Requirements of S573.5 Title 49 of CFR)

Type of Determination: X Noncompliance.
Date of This Report: May 18, 2001, revised June 1, 2001
Recall Numbers: 15200 Saab 01V-168 NHTSA
Manufacturer Name: Saab Automobile AB
Agent (Importer): Saab Cars USA, Inc.

IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLES POTENTIALLY CONTAINING THE NONCOMPLIANCE:

Make: Saab

Model Affected	Model Years	Production Dates		VIN Range(s)	Number of Vehicles
		From	To		
9-3	2000	9/27/99	7/07/00	YS3D..... Y2008679 - Y2048588 Y7001740 - Y7017927	8,302 540
9-5	2000	9/27/99	7/07/00	YS3E..... Y3009837 - Y3079504	14,491
9-3	2001	7/25/00	4/20/01	YS3D..... 17000001 - 17014005 12000001 - 12038552	294 6,137
9-5	2001	7/25/00	4/20/01	YS3E..... 13000001 - 13037540	13,309

Total Vehicles Affected: 43,073
Percentage Estimated To Contain Defect: 100%

The above population of cars includes most 2000 and 2001 model year Saabs up to the date that the air bag alert label adhesion problem was brought to Saab's attention. After April 20th, 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.

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 a silicon-like residue is present on the sunvisor vinyl surface that prevents the label from adhering properly. This residue appears to have come from the supplier's tooling.

PRINCIPAL EVENTS THAT WERE BASIS FOR THE NON-COMPLIANCE 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 is 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.
- June 1, 2001 Further investigation by Saab uncovered addition vehicles with the noncompliance and a revised Noncompliance Information Report was submitted.

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 remedy will involve cleaning of the sunvisor surface with a special cleaning agent (Teroson 172.41Q) and application of a new air bag alert label on both sunvisors.

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:

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| 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. |