



November 19, 2004

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SAFETY DEPTS

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 5321  
Washington, D.C. 20590

04V-557  
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 as it applies to a determination by General Motors of a safety defect involving certain 2001 and 2002 model year Saab 9-3 model vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Saab Automobile AB (Saab), a subsidiary of General Motors Corporation (the designated agent for Saab).

573.6(c)(2)(3)(4): This information is shown on the attached sheet.

573.6(c)(5): Saab has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2001 and 2002 model year Saab 9-3 model vehicles. During the manufacturing process, the fuel pump retaining tabs holding the fuel lines were damaged in some of the involved vehicles. Over time, this could cause the fuel lines to loosen from the pump resulting in fuel leakage. If an ignition source were present, the fuel may ignite resulting in a vehicle fire.

573.6(c)(6): In August 2004, Saab Automobile AB was notified of an increasing number of damaged retaining tab reports. In September, Saab started an investigation to establish the root cause for the increased failure rate.

In early October, it had been established that the condition could be limited to the manufacturing plant in Uusikaupunki, Finland, where a poorly designed transport cart had been introduced in connection with the 2001 model year production start. The transport cart design caused a fuel tank contact where the fuel pump is integrated when the cart was unloaded at the production facility. This contact caused damage (microscopic cracks) to the fuel pump retaining tabs. Though not visible to the naked eye, in time this may lead to the broken tabs. The carts were redesigned at the production start of model year 2003. In April 2003 the manufacturing of Saabs in Uusikaupunki was terminated.

On November 5, 2004 after reviewing all available data, the Saab FPE Steering Committee recommended a worldwide Product Safety Campaign. On November 15, 2004 the European Field Action Decision Committee made the decision to conduct a worldwide Product Safety Campaign.

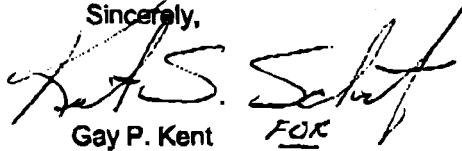
573.6(c)(8): Saab is currently developing a service procedure to secure the fuel lines on all involved vehicles. A securing bracket has been developed that will secure the fuel lines to the fuel pump even if the plastic retaining tabs should break.

Pursuant to 577.11(e), GM will provide reimbursement to owners for repairs completed on or before ten days after the owner mailing is completed, according to the plan submitted on January 15, 2003.

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**573.6(c)(9):** Saab is currently working on obtaining the parts necessary to begin this safety recall. Draft copies of the dealer bulletin and owner notification, and the scheduled mailing dates will be forwarded to NHTSA when they are available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G.P. Kent". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Gay P. Kent  
Director

Product Investigations

15018 - 04101  
Attachments

573.6(c)(2),(3),(4)

**VEHICLES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY MAKE, MODEL, AND MODEL YEAR  
PLUS INCLUSIVE DATES OF MANUFACTURE**

<u>MAKE</u>	<u>MODEL SERIES</u>	<u>MODEL YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER INVOLVED</u>	<u>INCLUSIVE MANUFACTURING DATES (FROM) (TO)</u>		<u>DESCRIPTIVE INFO. TO PROPERLY IDENT. VEH.</u>	<u>EST. NO. W/CONDITION</u>
Saab	9-3 CV	2001	8,463	05/00	07/01	Convertible	* Unknown
Saab	9-3 3/5 d	2001	420	05/00	06/01	Hatchback	"
Saab	9-3 CV	2002	7,133	04/01	07/02	Convertible	"
Saab	9-3 3/5 d	2002	<u>1,378</u>	04/01	06/02	Hatchback	"
			17,394				

\* All involved vehicles will be corrected.

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