

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

Saab Recall No. 15017

NHTSA Recall No. 04V-226

January 24, 2005

VIN: *****

Dear **, *****,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Saab Automobile AB has decided that a defect that relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2003 and 2004 Saab 9-3 models. Our records indicate that you are the current owner or driver of a Saab 9-3 that may be subject to this condition. Also, Federal Law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

It has been found that on some front seat belts the retractor mechanism may fail to operate correctly. This could cause the seat belt to become too slack resulting in an improper fit. If this occurs, it becomes obvious to the seat occupant almost immediately. If you were involved in a crash with this slackened belt, the result could be an increased likelihood of injury to the driver and/or front seat passenger. The enclosed attachment contains a description of this condition and an explanation of the recall service that will be performed by your Saab dealer to correct it.

We urge you to make an appointment with your Saab dealer as soon as possible. All Saab dealers have received the recall service information needed to rectify your vehicle. The work covered by this recall will be performed free of charge to you.

Saab appreciates your cooperation and understanding regarding this recall. We will do our best, along with your dealer to minimize the inconvenience. If you no longer own this Saab, please return the Saab Owner Identification Update slip attached to this letter in the envelope provide with any information you might have on who now has this car.

Sincerely,

Abe Buchbinder
Director, Product Quality & Service
Saab Cars USA, Inc.

OWNER INFORMATION ATTACHMENT: SAAB RECALL NO. 15017

I. What is the defect?

Saab has found that in some vehicles the front seat belt retractor mechanism may fail to operate properly. The retractor wire inside the seat belt's automatic retracting mechanism may have been damaged during the manufacturing process. If the retracting wire breaks, the seat belt will spool out, but will not retract. If this occurs it will be very obvious to the driver and/or front seat passenger as the belt will become very slack and will not pull back against the occupants body.

II. What are the safety risks?

If this defect occurs, the driver and/or front seat passenger seat belt will become slack and will not perform as designed. In the event of a crash, a slackened seat belt will not restrain the occupant properly and may result in an increased chance of injury and/or death.

III. What is Saab going to do?

Saab Cars USA, Inc. has made arrangements with its authorized Saab dealers to replace your vehicle's front seat belts with new assemblies. While it will only take about an hour to have the seat belts replaced, the dealership may need to keep your car for a longer time depending on the current workload of their service department.

We urge you to make an appointment with your Saab dealer as soon as possible. Please bring this letter with you on the day of your appointment.

There is no charge for this recall or for any assistance in completing this work from either Saab or Saab dealers.

IV. What if you have a problem or question regarding this recall?

The Saab Customer Assistance Center is available to assist you in resolving any questions and may be contacted toll free at 1-800-955-9007. If, after contacting the Saab Customer Assistance Center or your Saab dealer, you are still not satisfied that we have done our best to remedy this condition within 60 days after you receive this notice, you may also submit a complaint to the Administrator, NHTSA, 400 Seventh St. SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.