



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

September 15, 2005

GAY KENT  
GENERAL MOTORS CORP./SAAB AUTOMOBILE AB  
MAIL CODE 480-111-E15 30200 MOUND ROAD  
WARREN MI 48090-9055

**Subject: BIPOLAR TRANSISTOR OVERHEATING/BURNOUT**

Dear MS. KENT:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records, as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

SAAB/9-3/2000-2002  
SAAB/9-5/2000-2002

**NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-399**

**Mfg's Report Date: September 13, 2005**

**Components: ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: IGNITION: MODULE**

**Potential Number of Units Affected: 103,202**

**Summary:**

CERTAIN PASSENGER VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH B205/B235 4-CYLINDER GASOLINE ENGINES AND B308 6-CYLINDER GASOLINE ENGINES MAY EXPERIENCE OVERHEATING AND BURNOUT OF THE ISOLATED GATED BIPOLAR TRANSISTOR (IGBT) WITHIN THE IGNITION DISCHARGE MODULE (IDM) DUE TO INCREASED SUSCEPTIBILITY TO ELECTRICAL LOADS.

**Consequence:**

OVERHEATING OF THE IGBT OCCURS MOST OFTEN AT ENGINE START-UP, BUT IT MAY ALSO OCCUR WHILE THE ENGINE IS RUNNING. ENGINE STALLING MAY OCCUR, WHICH COULD RESULT IN A CRASH.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSPECT TO SEE WHAT VERSION IDM IS IN THE VEHICLE AND REPLACE THE IDM IF IT IS A VERSION BUILT PRIOR TO THE INTRODUCTION OF QP3. AN INTERIM LETTER WILL BE MAILED TO OWNERS IN OCTOBER 2005, INFORMING THEM OF THE CONDITION. WHEN PARTS ARE AVAILABLE (EARLY MARCH 2006), OWNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED TO BRING THEIR VEHICLES IN TO THE DEALERS TO HAVE THE IDM REPLACED. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT SAAB AT 1-800-955-9007.

**Notes:**

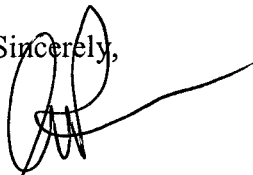
SAAB RECALL NO. 05087. CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV).

This recall was the subject of a Preliminary Evaluation, PE05-017, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

Effective October 21, 2004, a manufacturer must provide an estimated dealer notification date as well as an owner notification date (month/day/year) when submitting a defect/noncompliance report (Part 573.6).

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,  


George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement