



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

December 29, 2005

NEIL LOVELOCK  
GENERAL MANAGER, AFTER SALES  
GROUP LOTUS PLC  
POTASH LANE, HETHEL  
NORWICH, NORFOLK, UK 00 NR14 8EZ

NVS-215  
05V-571

Subject: GEAR LEVER

Dear MR. LOVELOCK:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
LOTUS/ELISE/2005

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 05V-571

**Mfg's Report Date:** December 21, 2005

**Components:** POWER TRAIN:MANUAL TRANSMISSION

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 1,740

**Summary:**  
ON CERTAIN PASSENGER VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH 6-SPEED MANUAL TRANSMISSIONS, THE GEAR LEVER MAY BREAK.

**Consequence:**  
THIS COULD RESULT IN THE INABILITY TO CHANGE GEAR, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE GEAR LEVERS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY 2006. OWNERS MAY CONTACT LOTUS CARS USA AT 1-678-417-9073.

**Notes:**

LOTUS RECALL NO. 2006 / 1R. CUSTOMERS MAY 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).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

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).

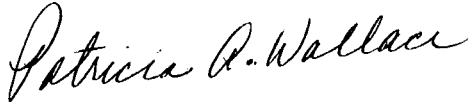
You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers.

Regulations require manufacturers conducting safety recalls to include the NHTSA Vehicle Safety Hotline phone number in their notification letters to owners [49 CFR 577.5(g)(1)(vii)]. That phone number has changed, and in a technical amendment to the regulation published in the June 21, 2005 Federal Register [70 FR 35556] manufacturers' owner letters must contain the new phone number and the NHTSA's web address. Accordingly, beginning July 21, 2005, please revise your owner letters to include the following statement. "A statement informing the owner that he or she may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590; or *call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.*"

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,



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