



May 9, 2005

Mr. Ronald Medford  
Senior Associate Administrator, Vehicle Safety  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 5321  
Washington, D.C. 20590

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2005-215  
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OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

05V-236  
(2 pages)

Dear Mr. Medford:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 as it applies to a determination by General Motors Europe of a safety defect involving certain 2003, 2004, and 2005 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): General Motors Europe has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2003, 2004, and 2005 model year Saab 9-3 vehicles. The subject vehicles were produced with a vacuum pipe check valve for the brake booster that may fail from exposure to elevated temperatures, resulting in sudden loss of power brake assist, usually with little or no warning. The brakes can be applied manually, but if this condition were to occur when minimum stopping distance is required, a vehicle crash could occur.

573.6(c)(6): Saab Automobile AB began an investigation in September of 2004 after receiving field reports from warm weather regions (Taiwan & Thailand) of power brake assist malfunctions. To date, no field reports on this issue have been received from the US market.

In December 2004 the investigation revealed that the check valve responsible for holding vacuum in the brake booster could deteriorate when exposed to elevated temperatures. A deteriorated check valve that fails to hold brake vacuum pressure will result in loss of power brake assist

The GM Europe Field Product Evaluation Team concluded the investigation on April 15, 2005. The information was reviewed with Senior Management and on May 2, 2005 the European Field Action Decision Committee made the decision to conduct a Product Safety Recall.

573.6(c)(8): Saab is currently developing a service procedure to install a new redesigned check valve on all involved vehicles.

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 14, 2005.

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,

*Gay P. Kent* For GAY KENT

Gay P. Kent  
Director

Product Investigations

05057 / Saab 05019  
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 SD	2003	25363	07/02	06/03	Sport Sedan	* Unknown
Saab	9-3 SD	2004	22218	07/03	06/04	Sport Sedan	"
Saab	9-3 SD	2005	10580	06/04	03/05	Sport Sedan	"
Saab	9-3 CV	2004	7080	06/03	07/04	Convertible	"
Saab	9-3 CV	2005	<u>3413</u>	07/04	03/05	Convertible	"
			68,654				

\* All involved vehicles will be corrected.

05057/ Saab 05019