

Safety Defect and Noncompliance Report Guide for Vehicles
PART 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports¹

05V-413
(9 pages)

On September 15, 2005, Saleen, Inc. [MFR] decided that a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 113 exists in the motor vehicles listed below, and is furnishing notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in accordance with 49 CFR Part 573 Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports.

Date this report was prepared: September 16, 2005

Furnish the manufacturer's identification code for this recall (if applicable): _____

1. Identify the full corporate name of the fabricating manufacturer of the vehicle being recalled. If the recalled vehicle is imported, provide the name and mailing address of the designated agent as prescribed by 49 U.S.C. §30164.

Saleen, Inc.
76 Fairbanks
Irvine, CA 92618

Identify the corporate official, by name and title, whom the agency should contact with respect to this recall.

Manny Margeritas
Director of Aftermarket Operations and Warranty

Telephone Number: (949) 597-3805 Fax No.: (949) 457-0859

Name and Title of Person who prepared this report.

Matthew Allison
Certification Engineer

Signed: _____ /S/ Matt Allison

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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¹ Each manufacturer must furnish a report, to the Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance, for each defect or noncompliance condition which relates to motor vehicle safety.

This guide was developed from 49 CFR Part 573, "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports" and also outlines information currently requested. Any questions, please consult the complete Part 573 or contact Mr. George Person at (202) 366-5210 or by FAX at (202) 366-7882.

I. Identify the Vehicle Models Involved in the Recall

2. Identify the Vehicles Involved in the Recall, for each make and model or applicable vehicle line (provide illustrations or photographs as necessary to describe the vehicle), provide:

Make(s): Saleen **Model Years Involved:** 2005 **Model(s):** S281 Supercharged

Production Dates: Beginning: 3/2005 **Ending:** 8/2005

VIN Range: Beginning: Serial number 05-0052 **Ending:** Serial number 05-407

Vehicle Type: 2+2 **Bodystyle:** Coupe

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

The vehicle is marked with a "Supercharged" badge located on both the right- and left-hand front fenders, between the front wheel cutout and the door.

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Make(s): _____ **Model Years Involved:** _____ **Model(s):** _____

Production Dates: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

VIN Range: Beginning: _____ **Ending:** _____

Vehicle Type: _____ **Bodystyle:** _____

Descriptive information which characterizes/distinguishes the recalled vehicles from those model vehicles not included in the recall:

Identify the approximate percentage of the production of all the recalled models manufactured by your company between the inclusive dates of manufacture provided above, that the recalled model population represents. For example, if the recall involved Widgets equipped with certain items of equipment from January 1, 1996 through April 1, 1997, then what was the percentage of the recalled Widgets of all Widgets manufactured during that time period. 100%

II. Identify the Recall Population

3. Furnish the total number of vehicles recalled potentially containing the defect or noncompliance.

<u>Model</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of Vehicles Potentially Involved:</u>
<u>S281 Supercharged</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>ALL</u>

Total Number Potentially Affected by the Recall: 339

4. Furnish the approximate percentage of the total number of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect or noncompliance: 60%

Identify and describe how the recall population was determined--in particular how the recalled models were selected and the basis for the beginning and final dates of manufacture of the recalled vehicles:

The recall is due to the bolts used on the fiberglass hoods installed as part of the 2005 Saleen S281, Supercharged model, as part of its factory supplied appearance package.
Therefore, all 2005 Saleen S281 Supercharged vehicles are affected.

III. Describe the Defect or Noncompliance

5. Describe the defect or noncompliance. The description should address the nature and physical location of the defect or noncompliance. Illustrations should be provided as appropriate.

The bolts used to fasten the hood latch and hinges to the fiberglass body of the hood can become loose.

Describe the cause(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

Inappropriate torque application.

Describe the consequence(s) of the defect or noncompliance condition.

The hood may become loose and/or separate from its latch and/or hinge(s) while driving.

Identify any warning which can (a) precede or (b) occur.

The hood may be loose, i.e. readily moveable under latched conditions. Excessive movement of the hood relative to its latch and/or hinge(s).

If the defect or noncompliance is in a component or assembly purchased from a supplier, identify the supplier by corporate name and address.

N/A

Identify the name and title of the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier:

N/A

IV. Provide the Chronology in Determining the Defect/Noncompliance

If the recall is for a defect, complete item 6, otherwise item 7.

6. With respect to a defect, furnish a chronological summary (including dates) of all the principle events that were the basis for the determination of the defect. The summary should include, but not be limited to, the number of reports, accidents, injuries, fatalities, and warranty claims.

7. With respect to a noncompliance, identify and provide the test results or other data (in chronological order and including dates) on which the noncompliance was determined.

A notice was received on July 18, 2005 recording a hood that separated from the front latch during driving conditions. An investigation was conducted and an internal report issued on August 8, 2005. Immediately thereafter, a sample of dealer inventory vehicles were inspected in conjunction with those vehicles located at Saleen's production headquarters in Irvine, CA, and it was determined that the percentage of affected vehicles could be as high as 60%. The inspection was completed on September 13th. On September 15th, citing safety concerns, it was the decision of Saleen, Inc. to initiate a recall on the 2005 Saleen S281 Supercharged hood bolts.

V. Identify the Remedy

8. A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance. This program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of the manufacturer's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with §573.13 of this part. A manufacturer's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by §573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in the manufacturer's report to NHTSA under this section. If a manufacturer submits one or more general reimbursement plans, the manufacturer shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with §573.13. The manufacturer's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters.

Saleen, Inc. to supply replacement parts, including complete installation instructions and technical support. Saleen, Inc. to cover all labor costs.

9. Furnish a description of the manufacturer's remedy for the defect or noncompliance. Clearly describe the differences between the recall condition and the remedy.

All bolts used to mount hinge and latch components to the body of the hood shall be replaced with bolts that are impregnated with a nylon-based thread locking compound. Technicians shall be instructed to install bolts to the appropriate torque setting; if there is any indication of hood damage, i.e. the bolt can not be tightened to the torque level required, the hood will be discarded. At Saleen, Inc.'s cost, a new hood and mounting hardware will be supplied for replacement.

Clearly describe the distinguishing characteristics of the remedy component/assembly versus the recalled component/assembly.

The remedy components will be a gold color and can be distinguished by a visible patch of impregnated nylon locking compound. The bolts to be replaced are either silver or black and contain no impregnated locking compound.

Identify and describe how and when the recall condition was corrected in production. If the production remedy was identical to the recall remedy in the field, so state. If the product was discontinued, so state.

No 2005 Saleen S281 Supercharged vehicles have been manufactured following the recall decision.

VI. Identify the Recall Schedule

10. Furnish a schedule or agenda (with specific dates) for notification to other manufacturers, dealers/retailers, and purchasers. Please, identify any foreseeable problems with implementing the recall.

9/19/2005 – Begin customer database development.

9/26/2005 – Initiate certified correspondence to customers and dealers/retailers.

VII. Furnish Recall Communications

11. Furnish a final copy of all notices, bulletins, and other communications that relate directly to the defect or noncompliance and which are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, or purchaser. This includes all communications (including both original and follow-up) concerning this recall from the time your company determines the defect or noncompliance condition on, not just the initial notification. *A DRAFT copy of the notification documents should be submitted to this office by Fax (202-366-7882) for review prior to mailing.*

Note that these documents are to be submitted separately from those provided in accordance with Part 579.5 requirements.

{See Appendix 1: Recall Related Correspondence as of Sept. 16, 2005}

Appendix 1:

Recall Related Correspondence as of
Sept. 16, 2005

Matt Allison

Subject: Hood Recall
Location: Upstairs conference room

Start: Fri 9/16/2005 5:00 PM
End: Fri 9/16/2005 6:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Required Attendees: Matt Allison; Alan Leukhardt; Billy Tally; Carlos Duran; Manny Margaretis; Mac Worch; Tom Ryan; Tricia Bryks; John Spruill; Patrick Dawson

Optional Attendees: Brian Walsh

This meeting request is sent on behalf of Manny Margaretis. As most, if not all, are aware, we are initiating a recall on the 2005 Supercharged fiberglass hood due to the loose latch/latch bolt issue. This recall will be remedied by replacing the two bolts for the hood latch hoop with units that will not loosen over time. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information as well as to generate a repair strategy, which will include a detailed list of all of the required resources. If you have any questions or comments, or if you know that you will not be able to attend, please contact Manny directly by email or on his cell (949-235-9763). Thanks.