

#### AMERICAN SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION

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2007 JULY - 24 P 2:30

July 23, 2007

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION RECALL MGMT DIV.

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

07V-315 (6 Pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The following information is submitted in accordance with the defect reporting regulations in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 573.

#### 1. Name of Manufacturer and Importers

Manufacturer: GM Daewoo Auto & Technology Company Importers:

Continental U.S. - American Suzuki Motor Corporation

Puerto Rico - Suzuki Del Caribe, Inc.

#### 2. Identification of Motor Vehicles Involved

Affected vehicles are 2006-2007 Suzuki Forenza, Suzuki Forenza wagon, and Suzuki Reno passenger cars produced from May 6, 2005 to December 20, 2006.

# 3. Total Number of Motor Vehicles Involved

75,697

# 4. Percentage of Motor Vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect

100%

#### 5. Description of Defect

The subject vehicles were produced with driver and front passenger seat belt buckles having an improper ultrasonic weld of the upper and lower portion of the seat belt

buckle case. With this condition, a spring rib or fixation rib on the lower portion of the buckle case could break and remain inside the buckle. This could prevent the buckle tongue from being able to be inserted into the buckle, or could cause the buckle to seem to have latched without latching completely. If the buckle does not latch completely, the buckle could release without pressing the release button. These buckle malfunctions, which could prevent a person from using the seat belt or could cause the seat belt to fail to function as designed, can increase the risk of injury in a crash.

# 6. Chronology of Principal Events

August, 2006 - GM Daewoo Auto & Technology Company (GMDAT) received a field report from

American Suzuki Motor Corporation (ASMC) and initiated an

investigation.

December, 2006 - GMDAT's investigation resulted in a

production change to the ultrasonic weld method used in producing the

seat belt buckles.

January-June, 2007- GMDAT continued to monitor field

claim part analysis from vehicles produced prior to the December

production change.

# 7. Description of Corrective Action

ASMC and Suzuki Del Caribe, Inc. will conduct a safety-related recall campaign to replace the front seat belt buckles on affected vehicles.

ASMC is planning to notify dealers about the recall on July 27, 2007. ASMC currently expects to be able to notify owners about the recall in November, 2007. We expect that Suzuki Del Caribe, Inc. will follow a similar schedule.

Enclosed is a copy of ASMC's plan for reimbursing owners and purchasers who incurred costs for remedies in advance of recall notification.

# 8. Copy of Notices

Enclosed is a copy of the initial notification letter that Suzuki Motor Corporation sent to ASMC. Copies of ASMC's draft Service Bulletin and Technical Bulletin, and a copy of ASMC's draft owner notification letter will be provided when they have been finalized.

# 9. <u>Suzuki Campaign Number</u>

ΚY

Sincerely,

AMERIÇAN SUZUKI MOTOR GORPORATION

Kenneth M. Bush

Associate Director, Government Relations



#### **SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION** 300 TAKATSUKA, HAMAMATSU, JAPAN

#### SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION

**Field Service Department** 

Overseas Automobile Service Group

Tel: 81-53-440-2363, Fax: 81-53-440-2251

To: Suzuki Distributor
Attn.: Managing director

Automotive Service Director / Manager

# RE: 2006-2007MY FORENZA/RENO, SAFETY-RELATED RECALL CAMPAIGN for Front Seat Belt Buckle Failure

Page: 1 of 2

Ref.: YS70723

Date: July.23, 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

We regret to inform you that certain 2006-2007MY Forenza/Reno model vehicles may have a production problem which could pose a safety risk in the front seat belt buckles.

As a result, Suzuki motor corporation has decided to conduct a Safety Recall Campaign. We would like to request you to kindly take the following actions as below. Also, if necessary, please notify this campaign to your government or entity.

#### 1. CONDITION

Some customers may complain that the front seat belt tongue won't latch into the buckle and in rare cases even the locked tongue will pop out by low stretching force.

#### 2. AFFECTED VEHICLE INFORMATION

1) Affected Model:

2006-2007MY Forenza/Reno, produced from May 06, 2005 ~ December 20, 2006.

2) Affected Countries and affected vehicle number

USA main land 74,897 units

Puerto Rico 800 units

Total 75,697 units

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3) Affected Vehicles actually exported to your country

Refer to VIN list of ANNEX1 as attached to this letter.

#### 3. ACTION

- -Contact the owners of the affected vehicles to let them recognize this campaign and take a required action. Details about the owner contact will be informed to you separately.
- Replace the front driver and passenger seat belt buckles with the improved parts on all of the affected vehicles. For the replacement procedure, refer to the instruction as shown in ANNEX2.

#### 4. REPLACEMENT PARTS SUPPLY PLAN

The improved parts are to be supplied by GMDAT. The method and timing of the parts supply will be informed to you separately.

#### 5. COST REIMBURSEMENT

The cost incurred for this recall campaign will be reimbursed by GMDAT. Please submit claim data and invoice directly to GMDAT warranty team (Mr. K.S.Lee/Senior Manager, kwangsook.lee@gmdat.com.)

#### 6. CAMPAIGN CODE

99-KY

We are very sorry for causing inconvenience to you. Your cooperation and assistance will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

中川正寺

Masatoshi Ichikawa General Manager, Overseas Automobile Service Group, Field Service Department SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION

Attachment: ANNEX 1: Affected VIN list ANNEX 2: Instruction of replacement

# CUSTOMER REIMBURSEMENT PLAN American Suzuki Motor Corporation

If your vehicle is included in the recall and you have paid for the repair or replacement of a defective seat belt buckle, you may be eligible for full or partial reimbursement. Suzuki's reimbursement plan covers the following affected vehicles: 2006-2007 Suzuki Forenza and Suzuki Reno vehicles produced from May 6, 2005 to December 20, 2006. Please note the following for which Suzuki may exclude reimbursement:

- Only repairs that are the subject of the safety recall are reimbursable. Additional expenses such as towing, rental, accommodations, damage repairs, etc. will not be reimbursed.
- Reimbursement may be limited to suggested list price on parts and the Suzuki published flat rate time allowance.
- An owner will not be eligible for reimbursement if the expenses for repairs are incurred more than 10 days after the date of the last owner notification letter sent by Suzuki.
- Reimbursement claims may also be excluded when adequate documentation is not submitted by the claimant.

To obtain information or request reimbursement, contact your Suzuki dealer or the American Suzuki Motor Corporation, Automotive Customer Service Department, PO Box 1100, Brea, CA 92822-1100, or call 1-800-934-0934. We will request an original or copy of your receipt for the recall repair or replacement, and your owner notification letter.