June 7, 2010
Associate Administrator for Enforcement National Highway Traffic Safety Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

## Dear Associate Administrator:

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: Suzuki Motor Corporation
Importers:
Continental U.S. - American Suzuki Motor Corp.
Hawaii - Servco Pacific, Inc.
Puerto Rico - Suzuki Del Caribe, Inc.
Guam / Saipan - Triple J Auto Distributors, Inc. American Samoa - Pacific Products, Inc.
2. Identification of Motor Vehicles Involved

Affected vehicles are 2005 model year Suzuki XL-7 multipurpose passenger vehicles produced on May 31, 2005 and all 2006 model year Suzuki Grand Vitara and XL-7 multipurpose passenger vehicles. Refer to the attached table for details

The reported condition involves the tension adjuster pulley for the drive belt that operates the power steering pump and air conditioner compressor (if equipped). This part (part number $49160-66 \mathrm{~J} 0$ ) is manufactured by:

NSK Ltd.
1-6-3 Osaki Shinagawa-ku
Tokyo, Japan 141-8560
TEL: 81-03-3779-7111

FAX: 81-03-3779-7431
3. Total Number of Motor Vehicles Involved

46,549
4. Percentage of Motor Vehicles Estimated to Contain the Defect
$100 \%$
5. Description of Defect

The tension adjuster pulley for the drive belt that operates the power steering pump and air conditioner compressor (if equipped) has an outer portion that is made of plastic. Repeated heat stress can cause the plastic material to deteriorate and pieces of the pulley can break off. In the worst case, broken pieces of the pulley can get caught between the pulley and the drive belt, causing the drive belt to come off and resulting in the driver needing increased effort to steer the vehicle.
6. Chronology of Principal Events

June 2006 to April 2008 - Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC) received 33 reports from the U.S. market concerning abnormal noise and loss of power steering assist in subject Grand Vitara/XL-7 vehicles.

June 2008 - After investigating the 33 reports from the U.S. market as well as reports from other markets, SMC concluded that there was not a safety defect involved. Increased steering effort was found to occur only at very slow speeds such as those that might occur when operating the vehicle in a parking lot or garage. Also, the loud squeaks that accompany belt slip would cause owners to seek repair.

September 2008 - SMC collected 15 good pulleys from the field and found that all of the pulleys had minute cracks on the plastic part of the pulley. An investigation was initiated to determine the cause of the condition, to attempt to reproduce cracking and breakage of the plastic
part of the pulley, and to determine whether/how breakage of the plastic part of the pulley could cause the drive belt to come off.

February 2010 - SMC testing confirmed that it is possible for the drive belt to come off if broken pieces of the pulley get caught between the pulley and the drive belt.
7. Description of Corrective Action

Suzuki distributors will conduct a safety recall campaign to replace the power steering pump drive belt tension adjuster pulley of affected vehicles with an improved part, if an improved replacement part has not already been installed. American Suzuki Motor Corporation is planning to notify dealers about the recall on June 14, 2010, and currently expects to notify owners about the recall on June 25, 2010. We expect that other Suzuki distributors will follow a similar schedule.

Enclosed is a copy of ASMC's plan for reimbursing owners who may have paid for repairs to remedy the condition in advance of recall notification.
8. Copy of Notices

Attached is a copy of the initial notice that American Suzuki Motor Corporation received from SMC. Copies of other notices will be provided when they have been finalized.
9. Suzuki Campaign Number

Sincerely,
AMERICAN SUZUKI MOTOR CORPORATION


Kenneth M. Bush
Associate Director, Government Relations

Attachment
Suzuki Part 573 Report
June 7, 2010

IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLES INVOLVED
BY MAKE, MODEL, MODEL YEAR, AND INCLUSIVE DATES OF MANUFACTURE

| SUZUKI MODEL | MODEL <br> YEAR | INCLUSIVE DATES <br> OF MANUFACTURE | TOTAL NO. <br> OF VEHICLES |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | $4 / 28 / 05-5 / 29 / 06$ | 35,797 |
|  | 2005 | $5 / 31 / 05$ | 5 |
|  | 2006 | $6 / 1 / 05-5 / 31 / 06$ | 10,747 |
|  |  |  | TOTAL |

