Chronology of Defect / Noncompliance Determination
2015 Hyundai Sonata Front Passenger Seat Belt Buckle

- July 2014: two warranty claims for 2015 Sonata front passenger seat belt buckles were submitted to Hyundai.
- August 2014: Autoliv was notified of the claims and a technical investigation was initiated.
- September through October 2014: incident field parts were analyzed and a potential root cause was identified (blade interference with switch housing).   A proposal for corrective action was developed by Autoliv. Hyundai began sending returned seat belt assemblies to Autoliv for complete analysis.
- On December 4, 2014 revised seat belt buckles were introduced into assembly at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama while the parts return analysis was underway.
- The overall rate of returned buckles remained low.   Through March 2015 there were 43 seat belt buckles replaced (a claim rate of 0.014%).
- On April 1, 2015, Autoliv met with Hyundai to discuss the status of their investigation into the returned buckles. Eight warranty return buckles had been analyzed: two buckles were inoperative due to the referenced interference condition, four buckles were functional but showed indications of potential internal interference, one buckle was inoperative as a result of external contamination, and one buckle was functional with no trouble found. In light of these results, the overall low rate of occurrence, and the ability of the passenger to immediately detect the failure to latch, Hyundai decided to continue monitoring seat belt buckle replacements and directed Autoliv to continue analyzing returned parts to gain a better understanding of the issue.
- April through May 2015: Autoliv discussed with HMA its analysis of additional return seat belt buckle assemblies.
- On June 11, 2015, Hyundai met with NHTSA ODI to discuss a status update and raised this issue for discussion.
- On June 17, 2015, based on the discussion with ODI, the decision was made to conduct a recall.

There are no reports of injuries attributed to this condition.