

CHRONOLOGY OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS

The production of the Kizashi for the U.S. market began on October 13, 2009 and ended on October 31, 2012.

In April 2011, SMC received the first Field Technical Information Report (FTIR) from ASMC related to the issue of the front passenger seat Occupant Classification System misclassifying a small adult as a child occupant. Suzuki was unable to retrieve the affected seat cushion from the field, so it could not examine it.

In early 2012, SMC received three additional FTIRs reflecting this issue. SMC contacted the OCS mat supplier, Continental, who met with ASMC and investigated the issue. Continental was able to replicate the issue; however, it was also confirmed that the issue was transient and self-correcting when the adult shifted position.

Between August and December 2012, SMC received three additional FTIRs, reporting the same transient issue.

In 2013, Continental again looked at the issue and presumed that there is a condition that the Occupant Classification System may classify a small adult as a child occupant, but also confirmed that the issue was transient.

Between July 2014 and late 2015, SMC received two additional FTIRs, reporting the same transient issue.

After Dec. 2015, SMC received no further reports of the issue until late 2018.

In Dec. 2018, SMC received an FTIR on this issue. At that time, SMC was also evaluating the leather shrinkage issue (which led to Suzuki's Part 573 report filed on March 7, 2019 leading to recently announced recall 19V187). As a result, SMC decided to renew its evaluation of the OCS misclassification issue.

In March 2019, SMC retrieved the passenger seat cushion from the vehicle associated with the 10th FTIR, received in Dec. 2018. SMC studied the component trouble history and detection function of the OCS sensor mat, and did not find any trouble history or abnormality. SMC then attempted to reproduce the issue using a new passenger seat, and confirmed that the OCS mat would, at times, misclassify a small adult as a child. Although the frequency is very rare, and the condition is transient, SMC decided to make a defect determination on April 25, 2019 and file this Part 573 report.

On September 18, 2019, Suzuki Motor of America, Inc. (SMAI) submitted a status report concerning SMC's discussions with the OCS supplier about developing a recall remedy. Given the substantial lead time estimated by the supplier to be necessary to develop such a remedy,

SMAI also reported that SMC began its own independent study to evaluate the feasibility of adapting the OCS mat from another Suzuki model for use in the Kizashi.

From September 2019 to December 2019, SMC fabricated a prototype seat cushion that incorporates the OCS sensor mat to be evaluated and conducted testing using a 5th percentile female dummy. The testing showed improved performance of the prototype seat cushion compared to a seat cushion that uses the original OCS sensor mat. Based on these results, Suzuki will expand its testing to include different-size front passenger seat occupants. Suzuki expects to complete this testing by the end of January 2020. If the results of this testing are favorable, Suzuki will proceed with conducting reliability testing of the revised front passenger seat cushion.