

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21E-018

Manufacturer Name : Safety Belt Solutions Ltd

Submission Date : MAR 10, 2021

NHTSA Recall No. : 21E-018

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



Manufacturer Information :

Population :

Manufacturer Name : Safety Belt Solutions Ltd

Number of potentially involved : 1,000

Address : Clovelly House, Clovelly Road,
Southbourne Chichester 00 PO10 8PE

Estimated percentage with defect : 5 %

Company phone : 2393079064

Equipment Information :

Brand / Trade 1 : Safety Belt Solutions Ltd

Model : Seat Belt

Part No. : 202441-1 / MFG 35FB9

Size : NR

Function : NR

Descriptive Information : Some belts incorporate tongues purchased from an outside supplier that have not been correctly heat treated. We have determined <5% of tongues in a batch of tongues received by us on 22 October 2020, which were used in our production from 22 October 2020 to 2nd Feb 2021, were affected by the improper heat treatment and thus may not meet FMVSS209 specification. The identified defective tongues may not satisfy FMVSS 209, which requires that: -

The structural components in the assembly that are common to pelvic and upper torso restraints shall withstand a force of not less than 13,345 N.

Production Dates : OCT 22, 2020 - FEB 02, 2021

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance : Seat belts are required to restrain the occupants in the event of a crash. FMVSS 209 S4.4 (b) (3) Requirements for assembly performance reads (3) The structural components in the assembly that are common to pelvic and upper torso restraints shall withstand a force of not less than 13,345 N. Seat belt tongues that have not been correctly heat treated may not satisfy this requirement.

If the seat belt tongue does not comply with FMVSS 209, the occupant may not be restrained in an impact

FMVSS 1 : 209 - Seat belt assemblies

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : The risk of injury is increased if an occupant is not restrained in the event of a crash

Description of the Cause : Incorrect heat treatment of tongues resulting in reduced strength

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : None

Involved Components :

Component Name : Tongue

Component Description : Seatbelt Tongue

Component Part Number : 1000-198-00A

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Changzhou SaiAnke Automobile Components

Address : No2 Dongcang Bridge Lane
Tianning District Changzhou, Jiangsu Foreign States

Country : China

Chronology :

On 22 January 2021 an SBS investigation was opened after an unrelated ISO10542 product development sled test conducted in Europe exhibited a belt not conforming to ISO requirements. Part was recovered for analysis.

On 19 February preliminary analysis identified that the tongue was below the expected hardness and hardness is an indicator of whether or not proper heat treatment had been applied. The tongue had been supplied to SBS by an outside supplier who claimed the tongue met SBS specifications.

On 22 February 2021, our US importer reported Lot Acceptance Testing checks on belt assemblies supplied identified a nonconforming strength specification in the tongue of one finished product. A request was made that all stock held by our importer in the USA be quarantined, pending a more detailed investigation.

On 3 March 2021 metallurgist confirms that the tongue of a non-conforming belt had been incorrectly heat treated by the SBS outside supplier, and as a result exhibited insufficient strength. Whether or not a metal component is properly heat treated can be indicated by measuring its hardness (the metallurgist approved this method of inspection).

On 4 March 2021 arrangements made to test (in the USA) 100% of the US importer's stock for the hardness of the tongue.

On March 5, 2021, before the entire US stock had been hardness tested, SBS decided, in an abundance of caution, to file a notice of nonconformity with NHTSA on the basis that the incorrect heat treatment of tongues would result in an FMVSS 209 noncompliance.

As of 8 March 2021, we believe that all suspect USA belts are quarantined by the US importer, and that none have been released to end-users.

March 9, 2021 we attempted to file the 573 notice on the Recall Portal but were not able to do so until March 10, 2021.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : All parts supplied to the US importer are believed to have been quarantined and will be hardness tested to identify any tongues not conforming to our strength specification using NDT techniques. This will identify any belts not complying with FMVSS 209
Non-conforming belts will be scrapped and replaced by SBS with products conforming to specification.
Conforming belts will be identified by means of a durable visible identification mark on the plastic over-moulding of the connecting tongue component and returned to the US importer.
Due to the fact that all belts from suspects batches have been detained at the US importer, no end-user part 577 notification is necessary, but we will provide to the US importer an official part 577 notice.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Conforming belts will be identified by means of a durable visible identification mark on the plastic over-moulding of the connecting tongue component and returned to the US importer.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : For US production: 1) as of March 4, 2021 we have instituted a 100% inspection process on the affected tongue; 2) In addition, we are discontinuing sourcing of this component from this supplier for FMVSS 209 applications.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : 8 March 2021 – confirmation by SBS that all suspect belts supplied to the US importer are quarantined by the importer and that no parts have been released to end-users.
31st March 2021.- planned completion date for hardness testing all US importer's stock and proceeding as described above

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 17, 2021 - MAR 17, 2021

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 17, 2021 - MAR 17, 2021

Purchaser Information :

The following manufacturers purchased this defective/noncompliant equipment for possible use or installation in new motor vehicles or new items of motor vehicle equipment:

Name : Amsafe Inc

Address : 1043 N. 47th Avenue
Phoenix AZ 85043

Country : US

Company Phone : NR

* NR - Not Reported