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DP92-017

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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April 13, 2000

NHTSA
Office of Defects Investigation
ATTN: Tom Cooper
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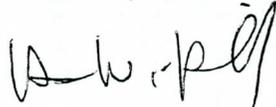
Dear Mr. Cooper:

Thank you for the information you sent to me last week regarding the defects investigation of inertial release. I would like to find out why in Appendix C of the Denial of Petition DP92-017 Inadvertent Release of Safety Belt Buckles, the NHTSA new car assessment program test of the 1989 Suzuki Sidekick was not included in the defects investigation. The report indicates that the belt came off during the test. Upon reviewing the videotape of the tests supplied by NHTSA, it appears that the belt releases upon rebound of the vehicle from the barrier. This is also consistent with the seat belt load data plots. There does not appear to be any kind of contact of the dummy's arm with the release button.

I have enclosed for your review a copy of the NCAP test report and a copy of the videotape. Please let me know of your findings.

Sincerely,

HABUSH, HABUSH, DAVIS & ROTTIER, S.C.



Hans W. Hauschild
Engineer/Paralegal

HWH/ts
Encs.

cc: Ms. Kathy Demeter

MAY 8 2000

DP 92-017

Hans Hauschild, Engineer/Paralegal
Habush, Habush, Davis & Rottier, S.C.
Firststar Center, Suite 2300
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Milwaukee, WI 53202-5381

Dear Mr. Hauschild:

This is in reply to your April 13, 2000, letter to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) concerning NHTSA's evaluation report of Petition DP92-017, Inadvertent Release of Safety Belt Buckles. You point out that Appendix C, a list of 11 NHTSA tests in which a safety belt buckle opened, did not include the New Car Assessment Program test of a 1989 Suzuki Sidekick (NHTSA number MK0502) and ask why that test was not included in Appendix C. Report MK0502 notes that the passenger side buckle opened during the test.

After researching the files, it appears that report number MK0502 was not identified during the analysis of DP92-017 which included a document search of 2306 tests involving 3969 test dummies. I conclude that this was an oversight and that report MK0502 was not excluded based on any criteria related to the search, test conditions or test results.

Since you have brought this to my attention, report MK0502 will be placed into the public file for DP92-017 along with a copy of your letter and this response.

If you have any other questions concerning this matter, you may contact Tom Cooper of my staff. His phone number is 202-366-5218.

Sincerely,

Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation
Safety Assurance