



LOTUS

Lotus Cars USA, Inc.

Date: April 23, 2001

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Owner Name
Address line 1
Address line 2
City, State
Country Zip

RE: Passenger Side Safety Belt / Replacement part for Lotus Esprit V-8
Vehicle Identification Number: "VIN"

Dear Lotus Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Lotus Cars, Ltd. has decided that certain replacement seat belt assemblies for use in 1995 through 2001 Lotus Esprit vehicles fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, "Occupant Crash Protection".

Any passenger-side seatbelt assemblies installed as a service replacement part (warranty or customer pay) after September 1995 may be the incorrect part. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208 requires that any front seat passenger belt be of the ratcheting type, appropriate to secure a forward facing child seat.

Due to replacement part numbering confusion at the Lotus factory, incorrect passenger-side belts may have been installed in certain vehicles having the passenger-side seat belt replaced. If an incorrect belt was installed, the seat belt will not be capable of securing a child seat, and there is the risk of death or serious injury to a child placed in such an improperly secured child seat.

Note this recall only affects seat belts that were replaced after a vehicle left the Lotus factory, and such replacement could have been done by the vehicle's current owner, or a prior owner, including a dealer while he had the vehicle in stock as a new or used car.

To check the ratcheting operation of the belt, pull the belt out to its fullest extent before latching. Let the belt retract, and as the retract mechanism operates, a ratcheting sound can be heard, and the belt reel mechanism becomes locked



with each ratchet so as to allow retraction only. After the belt is allowed to fully retract, it will revert to normal operation. The correct part number for a USA Esprit passenger safety belt is A082V8222F. The cloth tag near the lower mounting point beside the seat can easily identify this belt.

**CONFORMS TO
UNITED STATES
FEDERAL STANDARD
FMVSS209
MODEL 530055800A**

If a vehicle has a passenger side belt with a red tag and/or is labeled as MODEL 530055800A, the incorrect belt has been installed, and must be replaced.

Lotus is taking the following measures to remedy the defect:

- Lotus is remedying the defect without charge.
- The defect is being remedied by your bringing your car to a Lotus dealer for inspection and, if necessary, replacement of the passenger side seat belt at no charge.
- The earliest date that the dealer will do the work will be upon your receipt of this letter. Call your dealer for an appointment. Your dealer will need approximately 60 minutes to inspect and replace the seat belt assembly.

Please note that you may submit a complaint to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh St. S.W. Washington, DC 20590, or you may call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236, if you believe that:

- Lotus or your dealer has failed to or is unable to remedy the defect without charge.
- Lotus or your dealer has failed to or is unable to remedy the defect without charge within a reasonable time, which is not longer than 60 days after you tender the vehicle to the dealer.

If you have any questions, please contact Arnold Johnson, CEO at 1-800-245-6687.

Sincerely,

Lotus Cars USA, Inc.

Arnold A. Johnson
CEO

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE