

COMPLAINT OF SULFUR SMELL FROM EXHAUST

Article Text

1992 Saab 900

For sad sad das das 45400

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ARTICLE BEGINNING

TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN

COMPLAINT OF SULFUR SMELL FROM EXHAUST

Model(s): Saab 900, 9000, 9-3, 9-5
Section: 1 - Tools/Maintenance
Bulletin No.: 100-0587
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BACKGROUND

Customers may complain of a sulfur or "rotten egg" exhaust odor occurring during-heavy acceleration, at idle following sharp deceleration from cruising speeds, backing up, or when exiting the car after switching the engine off.

CARS AFFECTED

All Saab Models

CAUSES

Most of this odor is due to a tendency of all 3-way catalytic converters (TWC) - not just those in Saab cars - to store sulfur during steady-state conditions. The converter then releases the sulfur as hydrogen sulfide during fuel-rich engine running conditions such as idle after deceleration from cruising speeds or heavy acceleration.

Fuel is another factor that can contribute greatly to the "rotten egg" odor. The amount of sulfur content can vary between fuel brands, fuel grades and/or from one geographic area to another.

ACTION

Please advise owners that the sulfur smell will usually lessen after the car is used for about 10,000 miles. If the customer's car has more than 10,000 miles or the customer wants to take more immediate action, the following recommendations may assist them in reducing the odor:

1) Switch to a different brand of fuel. Sulfur content may vary between brand names. Advise the customer that it may take several tanks of a different brand before the odor decreases.

2) Switch to a higher octane fuel. Premium grade fuel usually has lower sulfur content than regular grades of unleaded fuel. Again, it may take several tanks of a higher octane grade before the odor decreases.

NOTE: Replacing the TWC will not solve the odor complaint, it is not recommended and is not covered under warranty for this complaint.

END OF ARTICLE