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Saab 9-3 Convertible Receives Top Crash Test Honors from IIHS

DETROIT — The Saab 9-3 Convertible has earned the 2007 Top Safety Pick award for open-top models in crash tests conducted by the U.S. Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The 9-3 Convertible joins the 9-3 Sport Sedan, which has received top honors three-years running, in receiving this top IIHS accolade.

To qualify for 'Top Safety Pick' award, a maximum 'good' rating must be recorded in each of three demanding tests involving frontal and side impacts and an evaluation of seat/head restraint protection in a simulated rear-end impact. The vehicle must also offer electronic stability control and convertibles must be equipped with roll bars.

"We are delighted that these IIHS findings confirm our own crash test results," says Per Lenhoff, head of Safety at Saab Automobile AB in Sweden. "This reassures consumers that the 9-3 Convertible is among the very best in its class for crash safety."

As part of its on-going work with crash safety, Saab has led the automotive industry in pioneering the development of active head restraints to help prevent neck injury in rear-end impacts. Saab Active Head Restraints (SAHR) are standard equipment to the front seats of all its current car models. The 9-3 Convertible is also equipped with Saab Dynacage, which includes pop-up roll bars to help provide protection in the event of a roll-over crash or an impact that could lead to a roll-over.

The IIHS frontal crash test assesses structural performance and potential injury to the driver dummy in a 40 mph (64 kph) impact against a fixed deformable barrier with a 40 percent overlap on the driver's side.

For the side impact test, a deformable barrier simulating an SUV or light truck is propelled against a stationary vehicle at 31 mph (50 kph) on the driver's side. Structural performance and potential injuries to a dummy at the wheel and another seated immediately behind are assessed.

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In the dynamic seat and head restraint test, a seated dummy is mounted on a sled which is accelerated to 10 mph (16 kph) and stopped within 0.1 seconds, simulating the effect of a 20 mph (32 kph) rear-end impact. The test is designed to assess protection against neck injury.

Saab is a division of General Motors Corp. Saab Automobile USA is the importer and/or distributor of Saab 9-3, 9-5 and 9-7X automobiles for Saab Automobile AB, Sweden. In 2007, Saab celebrates 60 years since first being introduced to the automotive scene as the vision-turned-reality of 16 aircraft engineers. Visit www.saabusa.com for more information.

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<http://media.saab.com/>

Note to Editors:

IIHS is a non-profit research and communications organization funded by auto insurers. The Institute's research focuses on counter-measures aimed at all three factors in motor vehicle crashes (human, vehicular, and environmental) and on interventions that can occur before, during, and after crashes to reduce losses. Further information about IIHS crash testing is available at: www.iihs.org/ratings/

The Saab 9-5 Sedan, 9-3 Sport Sedan and 9-3 Convertible have also achieved a maximum five star rating in EuroNCAP crash tests. For further details, visit: www.euroncap.com

Information about the performance of Saab cars in a field study conducted by the Swedish insurance company Folksam: "How Safe is Your Car?" can be viewed at www.folksam.se/engelsk