

Service and Warranty Reference Library

Subject: Low Coolant Message With No Evidence of Leak Found

Models:

2004-2011 Saab 9-3 Convertible With B207

2003-2011 Saab 9-3 Sedan/Combi With B207

The following diagnosis might be helpful if the vehicle exhibits the symptom(s) described in this PI.

CONDITION/CONCERN:

Some Saab 9-3's with 4 cylinder engines are experiencing coolant loss with no evidence of leakage found. Engineering suspects a possible porosity problem with the block castings.

RECOMMENDATION/INSTRUCTIONS:

Ensure the following proper diagnostic steps have been completed, including installing dye in cooling system, pressure testing, then driving and tracking any loss of coolant. Also check for coolant leaking into the transmission from the transmission cooler in the radiator. If the technician still cannot locate leak remove head to check to for any residual metal from the machining process that may have become trapped between the head and the block. If no issues with head gasket sealing are found, have head pressure tested. If coolant loss has been documented and no leaks are found, the short block may need to be replaced. Please make note of engine serial numbers. Please contact TAC for authorization prior to replacement.

A reinforced block has entered production from the VIN's below, which greatly reduced the likelihood of this issue.

2003-2006 Saab 9-3 Convertible up to VIN 66007190 with B207

2003-2006 Saab 9-3 Sedan/Combi up to VIN 61111931 with B207

Please follow this diagnostic or repair process thoroughly and complete each step. If the condition exhibited is resolved without completing every step, the remaining steps do not need to be performed.

Details: This PI was updated to include additional model years 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 model year 9-3's with the B207 engine. With the introduction of the new castings this has greatly reduced this issue; however as with any cast component porosity may still be an issue. **It may help to remove the oil pan to locate the concern while pressure testing the engine.**

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For more information: SPNA Technical Assistance