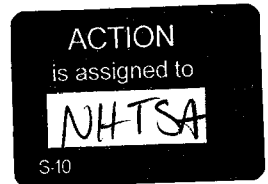


NVS-200

Sept 14, 2006

NHTSA, U.S. Dept. of Transportation
Washington, D.C. 20590

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
2006 SEP 21 P 2:06



Gentlemen:

I have just had some exchanges with GM Customer Service about a problem with rusted disc brake rotors on my Sierra 2500HD pickup truck, model year 2001. The truck has 61,500 mostly open highway miles on it, so it has been driven an average of 10,000 mi/year and regularly. I was surprised when it failed a safety inspection and had to have all four rotors and wheel pads replaced, since I was getting no indication of a problem upon normal braking- no chatter, no vibration, no jerkiness.

Upon making inquiries at two GM service departments and several independent garages and auto parts dealers, I find out that this is a common problem on GM disc braked vehicles. They are said to rust at any mileage and one Service Manager told me that they even rust in the dealer's lot awaiting sale and have to be turned before delivery to a customer. He said that GM demands they keep records of how much they have to turn these rotors (I assume the new ones off the lot).

I sought assistance from GM with the cost of replacement, but this was denied. They stated that this is a maintenance problem. I told them that it was indeed not a maintenance problem since the pads and rotors were not worn out, but that it was a materials problem since they were rusted and it was a problem common to large numbers of their vehicles.

You must have access to data which would tell you just how widespread this problem is. If it is as common as it seems to be from conversations with service personnel, perhaps it should get some attention as the subject of a possible recall, since it is certainly possible, as it was with my vehicle, to be completely unaware of a developing problem seriously reducing the swept area of a brake rotor.

In addition, I have been noticing for some time just how high a proportion of GM trucks and SUV's with DRL's are driving around with one of these lights inoperative. This feature was one of Secretary Dole's achievement of which she was proud. I think, since I'm noticing about one of four vehicles with one light out, that the quality of these lights should be examined.

Thank you for your sounding board. I do think that the brake rotor problem is real.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address line 1]

Farmington, NH [Redacted address line 2]

Edison
9/24/06