

CL 102334360-7117

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Monday, July 07, 2008 1:51 PM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: FW: urgent airbags/brakes safety issue

2008 JUL 11 AM 7:41

Please assign

From: Test, Crash <NHTSA>  
 Sent: Thursday, July 03, 2008 3:12 PM  
 To: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: FW: urgent airbags/brakes safety issue

[REDACTED]

Could you please have someone help answer the following consumer email question at there earliest convenience?

Thank you very much,  
 [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
 Sent: Wednesday, July 02, 2008 12:06 PM  
 To: Test, Crash <NHTSA>  
 Cc: [REDACTED]  
 Subject: urgent airbags/brakes safety issue

To Whom it May Concern,

**Airbag Problem:**

I own a 2008 Chevy Aveo. My vehicle has the advanced airbag system. When a passenger is sitting in the seat I expect, (as the drivers manual states), the airbag system to read, "ON". Here in lies the problem; it does not read "ON" consistantly when a passenger is sitting in the seat.

*Example:* Passenger, weight of 135lbs, height 5' 6", rides 30 minutes to the store; light reads,"ON". After shopping, same people return to the vehicle; passenger returns to the same seat, light reads"OFF". There is nothing blocking the airbag. All purchases from store were placed in trunk. Passenger was sitting correctly, seat belt on correctly.

This is what continues to happen, with different passengers, weight varying from 130 to 145 lbs. The dealership and I have been communicating with GMC who state, " *their is nothing wrong with the vehicles airbag system, their is a 120lb curve*" .( *No one seems to know what this means*) The dealership's mechanic saw the incident with his own eyes and still GMC says their is nothing wrong.

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In addition to this, the dealership allowed me to have a rent a car when they were investigating the airbag problem. I rented another 2008 Aveo. The same situation with the airbag occurred.

According to the Aveo Manual page 1-67: Written vebatam-

"The passenger sensing system is designed to turn OFF the right front passenger's frontal airbag and seat mounted side impact airbag if:

\*The right front passenger seat is unoccupied.

\*The system determines that an infant is present in a rear-facing infant seat.

\*The system determines that a small child is in a child restraint.

\*The system determines that a small child is present in a booster seat.

\*A right front passenger takes his/her weight off the seat for a period of time.

\*The right front passenger seat is occupied by a smaller person, such as a child who has outgrown child restraints.

\*Or, if there is a critical problem with the airbag system or the passenger sensing system."

### **Brake Problem:**

2008 Chevy Aveo. Only in the morning, after the vehicle has been sitting all night; when *backing* out of my driveway; when I step on the brake the car keeps going, even though my foot felt like the brake was fully depressed, then after a few seconds the brake will give and press down further thus stopping the vehicle. Even so I could have done some serious damage in those few seconds. I am blessed I do not live on a street where there are cars parked behind me or I would have hit them. These brake incidents happened 6 times. It has been investigated by the dealers mechanic and stated that no problem was found.

It is not raining when this occurs.

It does not consistantly occur.

It is only after the car has been sitting that it occurs.

There is no incline when this occurs.

It occurs only when backing up.

I have been frustrated and concerned with both of these situations. I have had to make adult passengers ride in the back seat because of the airbag situation. I almost hit my dog when the car would not stop when I was backing up. I am a Registered Nurse with Emergency Medicine Experience and have seen many a victim from Automobile accidents. I would perfer myself and others do not become a statistic. In my opinion this vehicle model is unsafe and needs to be fully investgated.

Please help me. I have been dealing with this for too long and I don't want it to be too late! Below are the particulars on the vehicle.

Thank you,

Wakefield, VA

Home#

cell#

Chevy AVEO 2008 4 DR Sedan VIN# KL1TD56608B

Purchase May 14, 2008

GMC customer Service phone number 1-800-222-1020

Dealer Tech assistance # 10352035

File #

Martin Fischman GMC Specialist