



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

July 25, 2008

[REDACTED]
Rochester, NY [REDACTED]

NVS-216 mec
Ref. # 10233929

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated June 18, 2008, concerning your model year (MY) 2002 Chevrolet Impala vehicle. The New York Office of the Attorney General forwarded your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). It was received by NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation on July 7, 2008.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

Clearly, engine intake manifold gasket failure is frustrating and costs associated with this type of repair are burdensome. However, the resulting engine damage you described in your letter generally does not result in an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety within the meaning of our authorizing statute. The type of problem you described typically provides warning signs (e.g., engine coolant leakage, the presence of coolant in the engine's oil, etc.) to the vehicle owner or a service technician before a complete engine failure would occur. A search of our database does indicate numerous reports of intake manifold gasket failure; however, our research did not reveal a defect trend of abrupt engine failure. Therefore, NHTSA will not be opening a safety defect investigation at this time. Additionally, a review of our database relative to problems associated with the brake rotors in MY 2002 Chevrolet Impala vehicles also revealed insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information you provided has been entered into our database and will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. We are enclosing for your information a brochure entitled "Motor Vehicle Defects and Recall Campaigns" which explains the Motor Vehicle Safety Act and our process.



Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank S. Borris II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "F" and "B".

Frank S. Borris II, Acting Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement