



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

Memorandum

Subject: **TEST REQUEST:** 2004 MY Chevrolet Malibu (EA04-018)

Date: **JUL - 9 2004**

Sent via fax transmission

From: Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation

Reply to NVS-213cat
Attn. of: EA04-018

To: Michael Monk, Director
Vehicle Research and Test Center

This memorandum requests the Vehicle Research and Test Center (VRTC) to conduct testing as described below.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is currently investigating alleged loss of power steering in 2004 MY Chevrolet Malibu vehicles (EA04-018). During the Preliminary Evaluation (PE04-031), complaints received by ODI and General Motors indicated that the electric power steering system failed, causing a loss of power steering without warning making the vehicle difficult to steer.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this testing is to determine the potential failure modes associated with the alleged defect on the subject vehicles and the corresponding potential safety-related consequences associated with these failure modes.

RECOMMENDED APPROACH:

In coordination with ODI, the Vehicle Research Test Center shall develop a test plan and corresponding test procedures to assess and measure the performance of the electric power steering system to determine:

1. The potential failure modes associated with the alleged defect on the subject vehicles.
2. The effect of the potential failure modes on the driver's ability to maintain steering control when the electric power steering system fails.

TEST VEHICLE(S):

In coordination with ODI, the Vehicle Research Test Center shall obtain complaint vehicle(s) as required for testing and/or field inspections.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The project engineer is Cheryl Tuosto (202-366-1869) who will discuss the details of the testing and/or field inspections with your engineers. We would like to have VRTC's proposal of the test plan and procedures by August 20, 2004 prior to test startup, as well as, bi-weekly updates as to the progress of this plan.

FINAL REPORT:

It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed as scheduling allows in coordination with ODL.

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