



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

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

DEC 5 2005

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. [REDACTED], Director
Product Investigations
General Motors Corporation
Mail Code 480-111-E118

NVS-212jfa
PE05-063

[REDACTED]
Warren, MI [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

This letter is to inform you that the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE05-063) to investigate allegations of damage to the Underhood Bussed Electrical Center (UBEC) harness in 2005 model year Buick Terraza, Chevrolet Uplander, Pontiac Montana SV6 and Saturn Relay vehicles manufactured by the General Motors Corporation, and to request certain information.

On February 21, 2005, General Motors issued bulletin number PIT33313 to dealers regarding the wiper motor crank arm contacting the UBEC harness resulting in damage to the wires of the harness. The bulletin states "some customers may report a stall and/or no crank, no start condition after the wipers are used." The recommendations/instruction section of the bulletin states: "Repair the wiring as needed and reposition the harness so that it does not come in contact with the wiper motor crank arm. This can be completed by forcing the excess harness loom away from the wiper motor arms path."

This office has received one report from the owner of a 2005 Chevrolet Uplander indicating the "actuating bar" of the windshield wipers caused damage to a wiring harness. Seven of the wires in the harness were cut, resulting in a loss of headlights. A copy of the report has been sent to your office electronically for your information.

Unless otherwise stated in the text, the following definitions apply to these information requests:

- **Subject vehicles:** all 2005 model year Buick Terraza, Chevrolet Uplander, Pontiac Montana SV6 and Saturn Relay vehicles manufactured for sale or lease in the United States.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-CUT
888-327-4236

- **Subject components:** all Underhood Bussed Electrical Center (UBEC) harnesses manufactured for use on the subject vehicles.
- **GM:** General Motors Corporation, all of its past and present officers and employees, whether assigned to their principal offices or any of their field or other locations, including all of their divisions, subsidiaries (whether or not incorporated) and affiliated enterprises and all of their headquarters, regional, zone and other offices and their employees, and all agents, contractors, consultants, attorneys and law firms and other persons engaged directly or indirectly (e.g., employee of a consultant) by or under the control of General Motors (including all business units and persons previously referred to), who are or, in or after 1995, were involved in any way with any of the following related to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles:
 - a. Design, engineering, analysis, modification or production (e.g. quality control);
 - b. Testing, assessment or evaluation;
 - c. Consideration, or recognition of potential or actual defects, reporting, record-keeping and information management, (e.g., complaints, field reports, warranty information, part sales), analysis, claims, or lawsuits; or
 - d. Communication to, from or intended for zone representatives, fleets, dealers, or other field locations, including but not limited to people who have the capacity to obtain information from dealers.
- **Alleged defect:** any damage (e.g., chafing, cutting, breaking, or separation) to the wires of the UBEC harness caused by contact with the wiper motor crank arm.
- **Document:** "Document(s)" is used in the broadest sense of the word and shall mean all original written, printed, typed, recorded, or graphic matter whatsoever, however produced or reproduced, of every kind, nature, and description, and all non-identical copies of both sides thereof, including, but not limited to, papers, letters, memoranda, correspondence, communications, electronic mail (e-mail) messages (existing in hard copy and/or in electronic storage), faxes, mailgrams, telegrams, cables, telex messages, notes, annotations, working papers, drafts, minutes, records, audio and video recordings, data, databases, other information bases, summaries, charts, tables, graphics, other visual displays, photographs, statements, interviews, opinions, reports, newspaper articles, studies, analyses, evaluations, interpretations, contracts, agreements, jottings, agendas, bulletins, notices, announcements, instructions, blueprints, drawings, as-builts, changes, manuals, publications, work schedules, journals, statistical data, desk, portable and computer calendars, appointment books, diaries, travel reports, lists, tabulations, computer printouts, data processing program libraries, data processing inputs and outputs, microfilms, microfiches, statements for services, resolutions, financial statements, governmental records, business records, personnel records, work orders, pleadings, discovery in any form, affidavits, motions, responses to discovery, all transcripts, administrative filings and all mechanical, magnetic, photographic and electronic records or recordings of any kind, including any storage media associated with computers, including, but not limited to, information on hard drives, floppy disks, backup tapes, and zip drives, electronic communications, including but not limited to, the Internet and shall include any drafts or revisions pertaining to any of the foregoing, all other things similar

to any of the foregoing, however denominated by General Motors, any other data compilations from which information can be obtained, translated if necessary, into a usable form and any other documents. For purposes of this request, any document which contains any note, comment, addition, deletion, insertion, annotation, or otherwise comprises a non-identical copy of another document shall be treated as a separate document subject to production. In all cases where original and any non-identical copies are not available, "document(s)" also means any identical copies of the original and all non-identical copies thereof. Any document, record, graph, chart, film or photograph originally produced in color must be provided in color. Furnish all documents whether verified by the General Motors or not. If a document is not in the English language, provide both the original document and an English translation of the document.

- **Other Terms:** To the extent that they are used in these information requests, the terms "claim," "consumer complaint," "dealer field report," "field report," "fire," "fleet," "good will," "make," "model," "model year," "notice," "property damage," "property damage claim," "rollover," "type," "warranty," "warranty adjustment," and "warranty claim," whether used in singular or in plural form, have the same meaning as found in 49 CFR 579.4.

In order for my staff to evaluate the alleged defect, certain information is required. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, please provide numbered responses to the following information requests. Insofar as GM has previously provided a document to ODI, GM may produce it again or identify the document, the document submission to ODI in which it was included and the precise location in that submission where the document is located. When documents are produced, the documents shall be produced in an identified, organized manner that corresponds with the organization of this information request letter (including all individual requests and subparts). When documents are produced and the documents would not, standing alone, be self-explanatory, the production of documents shall be supplemented and accompanied by explanation.

Please repeat the applicable request verbatim above each response. After GM's response to each request, identify the source of the information and indicate the last date the information was gathered.

1. State the number of all subject vehicles GM has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States. Separately, for each vehicle manufactured to date by GM, state the following:
 - a. Model;
 - b. Vehicle identification number (VIN);
 - c. Date of manufacture;
 - d. Date warranty coverage commenced; and
 - e. The State in the United States where the vehicle was originally sold or leased (or delivered for sale or lease).

Provide the table in Microsoft Access 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "PRODUCTION DATA."

2. State the number of each of the following, received by GM, or of which GM are otherwise aware, which relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles:
 - a. Consumer complaints, including those from fleet operators;
 - b. Field reports, including dealer field reports;
 - c. Reports involving a crash, injury, or fatality, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, notices received by the manufacturer alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a subject vehicle, property damage claims, consumer complaints, or field reports;
 - d. Reports involving a fire, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, notices received by the manufacturer alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a subject vehicle, property damage claims, consumer complaints, or field reports;
 - e. Property damage claims; and
 - f. Third-party arbitration proceedings where GM is or was a party to the arbitration; and
 - g. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which GM is or was a defendant or codefendant.

For subparts "a" through "e," state the total number of each item (e.g., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) separately. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a consumer complaint and a field report involving the same incident in which a crash occurred are to be counted as a crash report, a field report and a consumer complaint).

In addition, for items "c" through "g," provide a summary description of the alleged problem and causal and contributing factors and GM's assessment of the problem, with a summary of the significant underlying facts and evidence. For items "f" and "g," identify the parties to the action, as well as the caption, court, docket number, and date on which the complaint or other document initiating the action was filed.

3. Separately, for each item (complaint, report, claim, notice, or matter) within the scope of your response to Request No. 2, state the following information:
 - a. GM's file number or other identifier used;
 - b. The category of the item, as identified in Request No. 2 (i.e., consumer complaint, field report, etc.);
 - c. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person), address, and telephone number;
 - d. Vehicle's VIN;
 - e. Vehicle's model;
 - f. Vehicle's mileage at time of incident;
 - g. Incident date;
 - h. Report or claim date;
 - i. Whether a crash is alleged;
 - j. Whether a fire is alleged;
 - k. Whether property damage is alleged;
 - l. Number of alleged injuries, if any; and
 - m. Number of alleged fatalities, if any.

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "REQUEST NUMBER TWO DATA."

4. Produce copies of all documents related to each item within the scope of Request No. 2. Organize the documents separately by category (i.e., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) and describe the method GM used for organizing the documents.
5. State a total count for all of the following categories of claims, collectively, that have been paid by GM to date that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles: warranty claims; extended warranty claims; claims for good will services that were provided; field, zone, or similar adjustments and reimbursements; and warranty claims or repairs made in accordance with a procedure specified in a technical service bulletin or customer satisfaction campaign.

Separately, for each such claim, state the following information:

- a. GM's claim number;
- b. Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person) and telephone number;
- c. VIN;
- d. Model;
- e. Repair date;
- f. Vehicle mileage at time of repair;
- g. Repairing dealer's or facility's name, telephone number, city and state or ZIP code;
- h. Labor operation number;
- i. Problem code;
- j. Replacement part number(s) and description(s);
- k. Concern stated by customer; and
- l. Comment, if any, by dealer/technician relating to the m and/or repair.

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2000, or a compatible format, entitled "WARRANTY DATA."

6. Describe in detail the search criteria used by GM to identify the claims identified in response to Request No. 5, including the labor operations, problem codes, part numbers and any other pertinent parameters used. Provide a list of all labor operations, labor operation descriptions, problem codes, and problem code descriptions applicable to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles. State the terms of the new vehicle warranty coverage offered by GM on the subject vehicles (i.e., the number of months and mileage for which coverage is provided and the vehicle systems that are covered). Describe any extended warranty coverage option(s) related to the alleged defect that GM offered for the subject vehicles and state by option, model, and model year, the number of vehicles that are covered under each such extended warranty.
7. Produce copies of all service, warranty, and other documents that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles, that GM has issued to any dealers, regional or zone offices, field offices, fleet purchasers, or other entities. This includes, but is not limited to, bulletins, advisories, informational documents, training documents, or other documents or

communications, with the exception of standard shop manuals. Also include the latest draft copy of any communication that GM is planning to issue within the next 120 days.

8. Describe all assessments, analyses, tests, test results, studies, surveys, simulations, investigations, inquiries and/or evaluations (collectively, "actions") that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles that have been conducted, are being conducted, are planned, or are being planned by, or for, GM. For each such action, provide the following information:
 - a. Action title or identifier;
 - b. The actual or planned start date;
 - c. The actual or expected end date;
 - d. Brief summary of the subject and objective of the action;
 - e. Engineering group(s)/supplier(s) responsible for designing and for conducting the action; and,
 - f. A brief summary of the findings and/or conclusions resulting from the action.

For each action identified, provide copies of all documents related to the action, regardless of whether the documents are in interim, draft, or final form. Organize the documents chronologically by action.

9. Describe all modifications or changes made by, or on behalf of, GM in the design, material composition, manufacture, quality control, supply, or installation of the subject component, from the start of production to date, which relate to, or may relate to, the alleged defect in the subject vehicles. For each such modification or change, provide the following information:
 - a. The date or approximate date on which the modification or change was incorporated into vehicle production;
 - b. A detailed description of the modification or change;
 - c. The reason(s) for the modification or change;
 - d. The part numbers (service and engineering) of the original component;
 - e. The part number (service and engineering) of the modified component;
 - f. Whether the original unmodified component was withdrawn from production and/or sale, and if so, when;
 - g. When the modified component was made available as a service component; and,
 - h. Whether the modified component can be interchanged with earlier production components.

Also, provide the above information for any modification or change that GM is aware of which may be incorporated into vehicle production within the next 120 days.

10. Identify by circuit identification, circuit number, and color code, all of the wires that are within the section of the UBEC harness that may be damaged by the wiper motor crank arm as stated in bulletin number PIT33313.
11. Produce one copy of an electrical schematic drawing of the UBEC harness and one copy of a drawing showing the UBEC harness location and layout in the subject vehicles.

12. Produce one of each of the following:
 - a. Exemplar samples of each design version of the subject components;
 - b. Field return samples of the subject component exhibiting the subject failure mode;
 - c. Any kits that have been released, or developed, by GM for use in service repairs to the subject component/assembly which relate, or may relate, to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.

13. State the number of each of the following that GM has sold that is used in the subject vehicles by component name, part number (both service and engineering/production), and the month/year of sale (including the cut-off date for sales, if applicable):
 - a. Subject components;
 - b. Any kits that have been released, or developed, by GM for use in service repairs to the subject component/assembly.

For each component part number, provide the supplier's name, address, and appropriate point of contact (name, title, and telephone number) Also, identify by make, model and model year, any other vehicles which GM has produced that contain the identical subject components, whether installed in production or in service, and state the applicable dates of production or service usage.

14. Furnish GM's assessment of the alleged defect in the subject vehicle, including:
 - a. The causal or contributory factor(s);
 - b. The failure mechanism(s);
 - c. The failure mode(s);
 - d. The risk to motor vehicle safety that it poses;
 - e. What warnings, if any, the operator and the other persons both inside and outside the vehicle would have that the alleged defect was occurring or subject component was malfunctioning; and
 - f. The reports included with this inquiry.

This letter is being sent to GM pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49 and to request reports and the production of things. It constitutes a new request for information. GM's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject GM to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163. (Other remedies and sanctions are available as well.) Please note that maximum civil penalties under 49 U.S.C. § 30165 have increased as a result of the recent enactment of the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act, Public Law No. 106-414 (signed November 1, 2000). Section 5(a) of the TREAD Act, codified at 49 U.S.C. § 30165(b), provides for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per day, with a maximum of \$16,050,000 for a related series of violations, for failing or refusing to perform an act required under 49 U.S.C. § 30166. See 49 CFR 578.6 (as amended by 69 Fed. Reg. 57864 (Sept. 28, 2004)). This includes failing to respond to ODI information requests.

If GM cannot respond to any specific request or subpart(s) thereof, please state the reason why it is unable to do so. If on the basis of attorney-client, attorney work product, or other privilege,

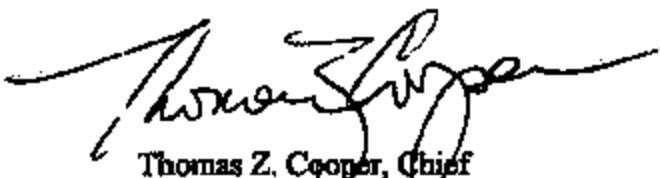
GM does not submit one or more requested documents or items of information in response to this information request, GM must provide a privilege log identifying each document or item withheld, and stating the date, subject or title, the name and position of the person(s) from, and the person(s) to whom it was sent, and the name and position of any other recipient (to include all carbon copies or blind carbon copies), the nature of that information or material, and the basis for the claim of privilege and why that privilege applies.

GM's response to this letter, in duplicate, together with a copy of any confidentiality request, must be submitted to this office by January 25, 2006. Please refer to PE05-063 in GM's response to this letter. If GM finds that it is unable to provide all of the information requested within the time allotted, GM must request an extension from me at (202) 366-5218 no later than five business days before the response due date. If GM is unable to provide all of the information requested by the original deadline, it must submit a partial response by the original deadline with whatever information GM then has available, even if an extension has been granted.

If GM claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, GM must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended (69 Fed. Reg. 21409 et seq; April 21, 2004) to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-113), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room 5219, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590. GM is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted.


If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please call John Abbott of my staff at (202) 366-5221.

Sincerely,



Thomas Z. Cooper, Chief
Vehicle Integrity Division
Office of Defects Investigation

Enclosure: Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire: 10125600

 U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration		DOT Auto Safety Hotline Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire To Report Vehicle Safety Defects 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236) INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline		FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148	
		Date Received 17-JUN-2005		Repository <input type="checkbox"/> Reference No. 10125600	
OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)					
Name		Daytime Telephone Number		E-mail Address	
Address					
City	State	Zip Code	Evening Telephone Number		
BAY CITY	MI				
Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer. Signature of Owner _____ Date: / /					
VEHICLE INFORMATION					
17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side		Make	Model	Model Year	
1GNDV23L550		CHEVROLET	UPLANDER	2005	
Date Purchased	Dealer's Name and Telephone Number		Engine:	Fuel Type:	
05-APR-05	GRAFF CHEVROLET		No. Cylinders 6	Gas	
Original Owner	Dealer's City	State	Zip Code		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BAY CITY	MI	48708		
Transmission Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antilock Brakes	Powertrain	Vehicle Component Code		
AUTOMATIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cruise Control	FRONT WHEEL DRIVE	114100 ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: WIRING: FRONT UNDERHOOD		
			Multiple Failure:		
FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION					
Incident Date(s)	Failure Mileage	Failure Speed			
08-MAY-2005					
ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE					
Tire Make		Tire Model (Name or Number)		Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)	
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)		<input type="checkbox"/> Original Equipment	Failure Location:		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Prior Repair			
Tire Component Code				Tire Failure Type	
ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE					
Make:		Date Manufactured:	Model No./Name:		
Seat Type:		Installation System:			
Child Seat Component Code:		Failed Part:			
APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION (Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)					
Crash		Fire		Number of Persons Injured	Number of Deaths
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			Reported to Police
					N
Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies). Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e., parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).					
ACTUATING BAR FOR WINDSHIELD WIPERS CUTTING INTO WIRING HARNESS CAUSING FAILURES TO WIRES CUT, PRIMARILY HEADLIGHTS. A TOTAL OF SEVEN WIRES WERE CUT. DEALERSHIP FIXED WIRES AND HAD TO FASTEN WIRING HARNESS TO WINDSHIELD WIPER FLUID TANK NECK WITH ELECTRICAL TIES.					
Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY					
The Privacy Act of 1974—Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.					