



GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

Vehicle Structure & Safety Integration

August 8, 2008

Jeffrey L. Quandt, Chief
Vehicle Control Division
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., S. E., Room W48-307
Washington, D.C. 20590

N080215

NVS-213
DP08-002

Dear Mr. Quandt:

This letter is General Motors' (GM) response to NHTSA's telephone request of July 7, 2008 for certain information received by GM that relates to DP08-002 after its Preliminary Evaluation response on April 12, 2006 and Engineering Analysis response on April 24, 2007. This response excludes the recall population of vehicle builds from November 1, 2000 through February 28, 2001. The subject condition is alleged broken timing chain that results in engine stall while driving. The subject vehicles for this inquiry are 2000-2003MY Saturn L-series vehicles equipped with the 2.2L engine (L61) and manufactured for sale or lease in the United States.

Population

The total number of subject vehicles is 222,990.

Reports

Table 1-1 below summarizes records that indicate engine stall while driving as a result of a broken timing chain. Table 1-2 summarizes records that indicate engine stall as a result of a broken timing chain but did not indicate whether the vehicle was parked or being driven.

TYPE OF REPORT	GM REPORTS	SUBCATEGORIES			
		CORRESPONDING TO NHTSA REQUESTS	NUMBER WITH PROPERTY DAMAGE	NUMBER WITH CRASH	NUMBER WITH INVESTIGATIONS
Owner Reports	13	5	0	0	0
Field Reports	4	0	0	0	0
Not In Suit Claims	0	0	0	0	0
Subrogation Claims	0	0	0	0	0
Third Party Arbitration Proceedings	0	0	0	0	0
Product Liability Lawsuits	0	0	0	0	0
Total Reports (Including Duplicates)	17	5	0	0	0
Total Vehicles with Reports (Unique VIN)	17	5	0	0	0

TABLE 1-1: REPORT CLASSIFICATION - STALL WHILE DRIVING

Product Investigations

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DP08-002_N080215 Response.docx

TYPE OF REPORT	GM REPORTS	SUBCATEGORIES			
		CORRESPONDING TO NHTSA REPORTS	NUMBER WITH PROPERTY DAMAGE	NUMBER WITH CRASH	NUMBER WITH INJURIES/FATALITIES
Owner Reports	62*	10	0	0	0
Field Reports	6	0	0	0	0
Not-In-Suit Claims	0	0	0	0	0
Subrogation Claims	0	0	0	0	0
Third Party Arbitration Proceedings	0	0	0	0	0
Product Liability Lawsuits	0	0	0	0	0
Total Reports (Including Duplicates)	68*	10	0	0	0
Total Vehicles with Reports (Unique VIN)	68*	10	0	0	0

TABLE 1-2: REPORT CLASSIFICATION – STALL WITH UNKNOWN DRIVING CONDITION

* ONE RECORD PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN PE06-006 WAS AMENDED IN THIS PERIOD BUT NOT INCLUDED IN THIS TOTAL.

SOURCE SYSTEM	LAST DATE GATHERED
Customer Assistance Center (CAC)	7/11/2008
Technical Assistance Center (TAC)	7/10/2008
Field Information Network Database (FIND)	7/8/2008
Company Vehicle Evaluation Program (CVEP)	7/8/2008
Captured Test Fleet (CTF)	7/8/2008
Early Quality Feedback (EQF)	7/8/2008
Field Product Report Database (FPRD)	7/21/2008
Legal / Employee Self Insured Services (ESIS) / Product Liability Claims and Lawsuits	7/16/2008

TABLE 1-3 DATA SOURCES

Warranty

The GM Claim Adjustment Retrieval Database (CARD) was searched for the warranty using the 34 labor codes listed in ATT_1_GM Disc; folder labeled: "Q_02;" refer to the "N080215 Labor code" file.

GM reviewed each warranty claim comment field and has identified claims where it was reported that the vehicle stalled while driving as a result of a broken timing chain. GM also reviewed trouble codes and customer codes and has identified claims where it was reported that the timing chain or related components were broken. In Table 2-1, GM states the number of unique VIN warranty

claims where the comments mentioned the engine stalled while driving and the timing chain assembly was broken or replaced.

MAKE/MODEL	2000MY	2001MY	2002MY	2003MY	TOTAL
Saturn L-series	0	11	19	1	31

TABLE 2-1 WARRANTY CLAIMS (UNIQUE VINS) – STALLED WHILE DRIVING

In Table 2-2, GM states the number of unique VIN warranty claims where the comment mentioned stall, engine quit/died, and the timing chain broke or was replaced, but there was no information to determine if the engine stalled when the vehicle was parked or while driving.

MAKE/MODEL	2000MY	2001MY	2002MY	2003MY	TOTAL
Saturn L-series	19	76	52	4	151

TABLE 2-2 WARRANTY CLAIMS (UNIQUE VINS) – STALL WITH UNKNOWN DRIVING CONDITION

Service Contracts - Universal Warranty Corporation (UWC)

The UWC Service Contract database was searched using the 6 loss codes listed in ATT_1_GM Disc; folder labeled: "Q_02;" refer to the "N080215 Labor code" file.

In Table 2-3, GM states the number of unique VIN UWC Service Contract claims where the comments mentioned the engine stalled while driving and the timing chain assembly was broken or replaced.

MAKE/MODEL	2000MY	2001MY	2002MY	2003MY	TOTAL
Saturn L-series	0	0	1	0	1

TABLE 2-3 UWC SERVICE CONTRACT CLAIMS (UNIQUE VINS) – STALLED WHILE DRIVING

In Table 2-4, GM states the number of unique VIN UWC Service Contract claims where the comment mentioned stall, engine quit/died, and the timing chain broke or was replaced, but there was no information to determine if the engine stalled when the vehicle was parked or while driving.

MAKE/MODEL	2000MY	2001MY	2002MY	2003MY	TOTAL
Saturn L-series	0	0	2	0	2

TABLE 2-4 UWC SERVICE CONTRACT CLAIMS (UNIQUE VINS) – STALLED WITH UNKNOWN DRIVING CONDITION

Service Contracts - Motors Insurance Corporation (MIC)

For consistency, the Motors Insurance Corporation (MIC) Service Contract database was searched using the same 34 labor codes listed in ATT_1_GM Disc; folder labeled: "Q_02;" refer to the "Labor code" file.

In Table 2-5, GM states the number of unique VIN MIC Service Contract claims where the comments mentioned the engine stalled while driving and the timing chain assembly was broken or replaced for the same labor codes.

MAKE/MODEL	2000MY	2001MY	2002MY	2003MY	TOTAL
Saturn L-series	0	5	17	0	22

TABLE 2-5 MIC SERVICE CONTRACT CLAIMS (UNIQUE VINS) – STALLED WHILE DRIVING

In Table 2-6, GM states the number of unique VIN MIC Service Contract claims where the comment mentioned stall, engine quit/died, and the timing chain broke or was replaced, but there was no information to determine if the engine stalled when the vehicle was parked or while driving.

MAKE/MODEL	2000MY	2001MY	2002MY	2003MY	TOTAL
Saturn L-series	2	5	13	1	21

TABLE 2-6 MIC SERVICE CONTRACT CLAIMS (UNIQUE VINS) – STALL WITH UNKNOWN DRIVING CONDITION

The sources of the requested information and the last date the searches were conducted are tabulated in Table 2-7 below.

SOURCE SYSTEM	LAST DATE GATHERED
GM CARD -- Warranty	7/25/2008
Motors Insurance Corporation (MIC) – Service Contracts	7/25/2008
Universal Warranty Corporation (UWC) – Service Contracts	7/18/2008

TABLE 2-7: DATA SOURCES

The warranty and service contract claims data provided has limited analytical value in analyzing the field performance of a motor vehicle component. These records do not contain sufficient information to establish the condition of the part at the time of the warranty and service contract correction; and service personnel may not consistently use the appropriate labor and loss codes. The warranty and service contracts data represent claims by our dealers for reimbursement for parts, labor, and other (such as towing and rental car) costs incurred in performing service for our customers.

Please contact me if you require further information.

Sincerely,



Gay P. Kent
Director
Product Investigations

Attachment