



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

Memorandum

Subject: **TEST REQUEST:** EA09-002, Electronic Stability Control
(ESC) malfunction.

Date: JAN 29 2009

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

Reply to
Attn. of: NVS-213swmc

To: Roger Saul, Director
Vehicle Research and Test Center

BACKGROUND: On September 17, 2008, ODI opened Preliminary Evaluation PE08-056 to investigate allegations of inappropriate activation of the electronic stability control (ESC) system in model year (MY) 2005 and 2006 Chevrolet Corvette vehicles. Some reports received by ODI and some reports to General Motors (GM), contained in GM's response to PE08-056, allege that the ESC system malfunctioned causing a sudden and inappropriate braking action without illumination of the brake lights and causing the vehicle to swerve left or right unexpectedly.

GM issued a technical service bulletin in January 2006, later revised in October 2007 (bulletin no. 06-02-35-002b), concerning ESC problems in MY 2005 and 2006 Chevrolet Corvette vehicles with the telescoping steering wheel option. The bulletin was intended to correct a fretting corrosion problem with the steering wheel position sensor connector C202.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the testing is to determine if the alleged failure of the ESC system represents a risk to motor vehicle safety.

TEST VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURE: Testing equipment and procedures can be determined jointly by ODI and VRTC after further discussion.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The ODI investigator is Stephen McHenry, stephen.mchenry@dot.gov, 202-366-4883. The ODI division chief is Jeffrey Quandt, jeff.quandt@dot.gov, 202-366-5207. The investigator and division chief should be updated at least bi-weekly of test program status/progress

FINAL REPORT: It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed to a schedule to be determined in discussion with ODI.

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