



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

MAR 31 2010

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Robert M. Slamer
10242 Rockey Rd.
Middletown, OH 45042

NVS-213cnl
DP10-003

Dear Mr. Slamer:

This letter acknowledges receipt of your petition received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Office of Defects Investigation on March 2, 2010, to open a defect investigation into brake line corrosion failure of model year 2003 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 series pickup trucks. Your petition has been assigned the identification number DP10-003. A copy of the opening resume denoting receipt of the petition is attached for your information.

In accordance with Title 49 CFR Part 552, "Petitions for Rulemaking, Defects, and Noncompliance Orders," the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has conducted a review of the petition and other pertinent information and has decided to grant the petition and has opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE10-010 copy attached) to investigate the alleged defect.

Sincerely,

Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure:
DP10-003 Open Resume
PE10-010 Open Resume

cc:
Steve Chan



U.S. Department
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ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION



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Investigation: PE 10-010
Date Opened: 03/30/2010
Principal Investigator: Chris Lash
Subject: Brake line failure due to corrosion

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: GENERAL MOTORS CORP.
Products: MY1999-2003 GM C/K Pickups and SUVs
Population: 6,000,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Brake line corrosion allegedly can result in rupture during brake application, resulting in sudden loss of brake effectiveness.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	110	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	3	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a defect petition on March 2, 2010, requesting the investigation of model year (MY) 2003 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD 4WD pickup trucks for corrosion failures of the vehicle brake lines. The petitioner alleged a sudden loss of brake effectiveness and extended stopping distance after a corroded brake burst during a brake application. ODI has received 110 owner complaints for MY 1999 through 2003 Chevrolet and GMC C/K series pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles, including 3 involving MY 2003 2500 series heavy-duty pickup trucks. The complaints allege the loss of braking effectiveness due to brake line rupture because of corrosion. In 37 of these complaints, the brake line failure was confirmed by a dealer inspection. Three complaints allege that corroded brake line failure resulted in a crash. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine the frequency, scope and safety consequences of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.



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ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION



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Investigation: DP 10-003
Prompted by: Petition
Date Opened: 03/29/2010
Principal Investigator: Chris Lash
Subject: Brake line failure due to corrosion

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: GENERAL MOTORS CORP.
Products: 2003 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD Pickup
Population: 189,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Brake line corrosion allegedly can result in rupture during brake application, resulting in sudden loss of brake effectiveness.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Other*:	1	TBD	TBD

*Description of Other: Petition

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: ODI will conduct an analysis to determine whether to grant or deny the petition.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received a petition requesting the investigation of Chevrolet pickup trucks for brake line corrosion that can result in a burst failure of a hydraulic brake line "under normal usage and brake line pressure." The petitioner stated that the brake line "burst in an area that was weakened by corrosion" resulting in a sudden reduction of brake effectiveness. This, in turn, resulted in a "large increase in stopping distance and with the brake pedal pushed to the floor." The petition further stated that inspection of the vehicle after the failure determined the cause to be a rusted brake line. This failure occurred under normal driving conditions with only six years of service.

ODI will conduct an analysis of the petitioner's allegations to determine whether further investigation is warranted.