



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 13-003
Prompted by:
Date Opened: 07/05/2013
Investigator: Emily Reichard **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Generator Control Module Fires

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: General Motors LLC
Products: 2013 Malibu Eco & 2012-13 Regal, LaCrosse eAssist HEV
Population: 42,904
Problem Description: The Generator Control Module (GCM) may overheat, which could lead to smoke and/or fire.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Recall Query (RQ) has been opened.

Summary:

On May 3, 2013 General Motors (GM) issued safety recall 13V-173 to address the improper function of the Generator Control Module (GCM) in model year (MY) 2012-2013 Buick LaCrosse and Regal and MY 2013 Chevrolet Malibu Eco vehicles, equipped with eAssist. This condition may cause a gradual loss of battery charge and the illumination of the malfunction indicator light. This could later lead to engine stall and/or inability for the vehicle to start. It may also lead to a burning or melting odor, smoke and possibly a fire in the trunk.

GM's recall notification to the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) stated that, prior to the recall decision, a service procedure was applied to unsold vehicles which involved stressing the GCM under extreme conditions to identify potential GCM non-conformities. According to the recall notice, dealers are to perform this screening process on a certain population of vehicles and/or if necessary, replace the GCM. GM recall bulletins 13136 and 13142 address this screening process and the replacement of the GCM, respectively. However prior to the recall notification, GM was informed of a fire in a vehicle that previously had the service update performed, thus drawing into question whether or not the procedure can effectively identify a defective GCM.

A Recall Query has been opened to investigate whether or not the service procedure is sufficient in identifying the safety defect in the subject vehicles.