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OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

June 23, 2004

Mr. K. N. Weinstein  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 5321  
Washington, D.C. 20590

04V-302  
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 as it applies to a determination by General Motors of a noncompliance involving certain 2005 Chevrolet Equinox model vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Chevrolet Division of General Motors Corporation

573.6(c)(2)(3)(4): This information is shown on the attached sheet.

573.6(c)(5): General Motors has decided that certain 2005 Chevrolet Equinox model vehicles fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 114, "Theft Protection." Some 2005 Chevrolet Equinox vehicles built at CAMI Assembly have an ignition key park lock cable end fitting that was not fully seated on the automatic transmission shifter nail head during installation. A not fully seated end fitting can prevent the cable auto-set from correctly adjusting the cable. An incorrectly adjusted cable prevents the shifter from locking in the "park" position when the key is removed from the key cylinder.

573.6(c)(7): The CAMI Assembly Global Customer Audit discovered the condition on April 23, 2004. As soon as the condition was detected, shipping was halted and CAMI's "third party" containment provider, Productivity Improvement Corp. (PIC), was contracted to inspect every vehicle in the yard. CAMI began an investigation to determine the cause, the extent of the condition, and the effect on vehicle performance.

During May 2004, it was discovered that a new station operator did not fully seat the cable end fitting onto the nail head connector prior to fully depressing the locking clip. Assembly line operators are required to attach the cable to the shifter base and to the nail head connector located beneath the shifter bezel. After the cable is attached at the aforementioned locations, the integral locking clip must be fully depressed, such that the top of the clip is flush with the outside of the core wire end-fitting. However, when inserting the clip, the spring-loaded self-adjustment mechanism must not be interfered with to ensure that the necessary cable performance characteristics are attained. Locking the clip down before the end fitting is fully attached to the nail head results in an improperly functioning park lock system.

CAMI enhanced the process work instruction to clearly depict operator requirements when processing the park lock cable. The CAMI quality control staff re-instructed all operators and completed a sign-off as record of this instruction. Inspection was modified to have the operator attempt to shift out of "park" at Trim 1 inspection. CAMI also added a secondary inspection at electrical check to functionally check the park lock cable system.

The GMNA Senior Management Committee reviewed the issue and on June 17, 2004, the Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a noncompliance recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers will inspect for a properly functioning shift lock when the ignition key is removed. Dealers will repair vehicles that exhibit the subject condition by removing the center instrument panel bezel and repositioning the cable end fitting on the nail head.

**Product Investigations**

Mail Code: 480-108-304 • 30500 Mound Road • Warren, MI 48090-9055  
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2148-673 Letter.doc



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Pursuant to 577.11(e), GM does not believe notification about reimbursement is required for this recall. The involved vehicles are current models and are covered by the new vehicle warranty.

573.8(c)(9): GM will provide draft copies of the bulletin and owner letter, along with mail dates, when available.

Sincerely,  
  
Gay P. Kent FOR  
Director  
Product Investigations

2148 - 04044  
Attachments

573.6(c)(2),(3),(4)

VEHICLES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY MAKE, MODEL, AND MODEL YEAR  
PLUS INCLUSIVE DATES OF MANUFACTURE

<u>MAKE</u>	<u>MODEL SERIES</u>	<u>MODEL YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER INVOLVED</u>	<u>INCLUSIVE MANUFACTURING DATES</u> <u>(FROM) (TO)</u>		<u>DESCRIPTIVE INFO. TO PROPERLY IDENT. VEH.</u>	<u>EST. NO. W/CONDITION</u>
Chevrolet	Z	2005	132	04/2004	04/2004	Equinox	* Unknown

\* All involved vehicles will be corrected.

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