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(3 pages)

December 21, 2004

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

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 safety defect involving certain 1997-2005 U model vans.

573.6(c)(1): Chevrolet, Oldsmobile and Pontiac Divisions 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 a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 1997-2005 Chevrolet Venture, 1997-1999 Pontiac Transport/Montana, 2000-2005 Pontiac Montana, and 1997-2004 Oldsmobile Silhouette model vehicles. The involved vehicles are equipped with second-row bucket seats or captain's chairs and a power sliding door on the passenger side of the vehicle. If a passenger uses the interior handle to open the power sliding door and holds onto the handle while it is being opened by the motor, the passenger's arm may be pushed into the seat back or armrest and a wrist or lower arm injury may result.

Before the vehicle is serviced, do not use the interior door handle to open the door. The driver can open and close the door from switches at the driver's position or by using the remote key fob. The driver should tell passengers to use the switch located in front of the door to open or close it. The driver should use the override switch to prevent operation of the power door by children or by others who are not familiar with its use.

573.6(c)(6): In November 2000, GM reviewed reports of twelve reports of arm or wrist injuries during opening of the power sliding door. The incidents involved the GEN II system implemented in production in the 1998 model year U-Vans (passenger side only). GM investigated potential modifications of the control algorithm as a continuous improvement for future products, but it found none that were feasible and effective. Modification of the door handle was initiated in June 2002. A modified handle design completed design review and validation in June 2004. It is used in the 2005 model year Chevrolet Uplander, Pontiac Montana SV6, Buick Terraza, and Saturn Relay.

On September 17, 2004 the NHTSA sent an Information Request to GM concerning allegations of wrist or lower arm injuries from entrapment between the interior door handle and the second row seat back. GM responded to the IR and identified that 91 injuries had been reported for GMX200 vehicles built in model years 1997-2004. GM and the NHTSA representatives met to discuss possible field actions concerning the condition on December 5, 2004.

The issue was presented to the GMNA Senior Management Committee (SMC) and on December 16, 2004 the Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.



573.6(c)(8): The service procedure will replace the original interior power sliding door handles. The original handles are offset from the door panel and a passenger can wrap his or her fingers around them. The replacement door handles are essentially flush with the door trim, preventing a passenger from gripping them in the same fashion. This applies to vehicles with passenger-side power sliding doors and captain or bucket second row seat(s). GM will also replace handles on the left-hand manual or power-sliding door to maintain a consistent appearance.

Because this service procedure is new for this recall and the redesigned handle has not been available previously, GM does not anticipate that there will be any reimbursement claims and, therefore, does not plan to notify customers about reimbursement.

573.6(c)(9): GM plans to begin this safety recall in March 2005. GM will provide a copy of the dealer bulletin and owner letter when available.

Sincerely,



Gay P. Kent  
Director

Product Investigations

2186 - 04110  
Attachments

**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	U Van	1997	14,482	05/1996	08/1997	Venture	100%
Chevrolet	U Van	1998	28,629	05/1997	08/1998	Venture	"
Chevrolet	U Van	1999	37,954	04/1998	06/1999	Venture	"
Chevrolet	U Van	2000	46,852	03/1999	06/2000	Venture	"
Chevrolet	U Van	2001	37,473	03/2000	06/2001	Venture	"
Chevrolet	U Van	2002	32,746	04/2001	06/2002	Venture	"
Chevrolet	U Van	2003	50,656	03/2002	06/2003	Venture	"
Chevrolet	U Van	2004	47,147	03/2003	05/2004	Venture	"
Chevrolet	U Van	2005	15,585	03/2004	09/2004	Venture	"
Oldsmobile	U Van	1997	11,084	05/1996	08/1997	Silhouette	"
Oldsmobile	U Van	1998	27,127	05/1997	08/1998	Silhouette	"
Oldsmobile	U Van	1999	30,367	04/1998	06/1999	Silhouette	"
Oldsmobile	U Van	2000	31,092	03/1999	06/2000	Silhouette	"
Oldsmobile	U Van	2001	33,376	03/2000	08/2001	Silhouette	"
Oldsmobile	U Van	2002	22,135	04/2001	06/2002	Silhouette	"
Oldsmobile	U Van	2003	17,301	03/2002	06/2003	Silhouette	"
Oldsmobile	U Van	2004	9,124	03/2003	05/2004	Silhouette	"
Pontiac	U Van	1997	21,263	05/1996	08/1997	Transport/Montana	"
Pontiac	U Van	1998	28,465	05/1997	08/1998	Transport/Montana	"
Pontiac	U Van	1999	33,133	04/1998	06/1999	Transport/Montana	"
Pontiac	U Van	2000	36,499	03/1999	06/2000	Montana	"
Pontiac	U Van	2001	40,443	03/2000	06/2001	Montana	"
Pontiac	U Van	2002	22,736	04/2001	06/2002	Montana	"
Pontiac	U Van	2003	23,007	03/2002	06/2003	Montana	"
Pontiac	U Van	2004	13,863	03/2003	05/2004	Montana	"
Pontiac	U Van	2005	4,763	03/2004	09/2004	Montana	"
GM Total:			717,302				