

GM SERVICE AND PARTS OPERATIONS  
DCS1237  
URGENT - DISTRIBUTE IMMEDIATELY

Date: August 13, 2004

Subject: Upcoming Safety Recall  
04052 – Headlamp Compliance

Models: 1999 Buick Century and Regal

To: All Buick Dealers

Attention: Dealer Operator, General Manager, Sales Manager,  
Used Car Manager, Service Manager, Parts Manager  
and Warranty Administrator

Based on information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) website, the media may report that General Motors will be announcing a safety recall involving certain 1999 Buick Century and Regal vehicles.

Some 1999 Buick *Century & Regal* passenger cars built in August 1998 – June 1999 may not conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 108, "Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment." Some of these vehicles do not meet the overhead sign illumination requirements of the standard. Testing indicated that, on certain vehicles, up to five of the eight photometric locations above the horizon that provide light for reading overhead signs are below the minimum candela requirements.

To correct this condition, Buick dealers will install low beam headlamp bulbs in both headlamp assemblies on the 213,839 suspect vehicles. These repairs will be performed at no cost to the customers.

GM is working with its suppliers to obtain the parts needed to correct this condition as quickly as possible. Based on the anticipated schedule, we plan to begin notifying customers about this recall beginning September 14, 2004.

Listed below are some anticipated questions and answers to assist in responding to customer inquiries.

**Q1: What is the condition that prompted a safety recall?**

A1: Some 1999 Buick *Century & Regal* passenger cars built in August 1998 – June 1999 may not conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 108, "Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment." Some of these vehicles do not meet the overhead sign illumination requirements of the standard.

**Q2: What is the cause of the condition?**

A2: Marginal variance in the optical form of the lens during manufacturing.

**Q3: Is there reason for being concerned about this condition?**

A3: The headlamps provide the required brightness to see down the road during nighttime driving.

**Q4: How would a vehicle owner realize the condition exists?**

A4: It is unlikely that an owner would notice a difference.

**Q5: What will GM do to correct this condition on the subject vehicles?**

A5: Buick dealers will install low beam headlamp bulbs in both headlamp assemblies. These repairs will be performed at no cost to the customers.

**Q6: Where were these vehicles built?**

A6: The vehicles involved in this recall were built at the General Motors assembly plant in Oshawa, Ontario.

**Q7: Have there been any reports of crashes or injuries related to this condition?**

A7: There have been no reports of crashes or injuries.

**Q8: Are parts at the dealers, and can customers bring in their vehicles for repair right away?**

A8: No. Customers will be notified of the recall the week of September 14, 2004.

**Q9: Why did it take so long to initiate this recall?**

A9: In early 2000, GM petitioned NHTSA to treat the non-compliance as inconsequential because the deviation from the requirement was not discernible to the naked eye and because vehicle meets the standard for illumination of the road. NHTSA denied the petition in July 2001. GM requested NHTSA to reconsider in September 2001. NHTSA denied exemption in January 2004.

**Q10: Are these vehicles safe to drive?**

A10: During nighttime driving, the 1999 Buick Century and Regal headlamps provide the required brightness for the customer to see down the road. The vehicles involved in this recall meet every other Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS).

Please contact the GM Dealer Business Center at 1-888-414-6322 (Prompt #3) if you have questions about this message.

END OF MESSAGE  
GM SERVICE AND PARTS OPERATIONS



## ADMINISTRATIVE MESSAGE

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### Message Criteria/Information

<b>Dealer Recipient Criteria:</b>	<b>Bulck Dealers</b>
<b>Exclude BAC(s):</b>	
<b>Originating Dept:</b>	SPO - Recalls, Joan Stone
<b>Subject:</b>	GMP04-149 - 04052 - Headlamp Compliance, 1999 Buick Century and Regal
<b>Actionable Item:</b>	Action Required
<b>Actionable Item Details:</b>	
<b>Contact Person:</b> (for Wholesale)	<b>Name:</b> Joan Stone <b>Phone:</b> 810-606-4422 <b>Email:</b> Joan M. Stone/US/GM/GMC @ GM <b>Fax:</b>
<b>Contact Person:</b> (for Wholesale)	<b>Name:</b> <b>Phone:</b> <b>Email:</b> <b>Fax:</b>
<b>Contact Person:</b> (for Dealership)	<b>Name:</b> Joan Stone <b>Phone:</b> 810-606-4422 <b>Email:</b> Joan M. Stone/US/GM/GMC @ GM <b>Fax:</b>
<b>Contact Person:</b> (for Dealership)	<b>Name:</b> <b>Phone:</b> <b>Email:</b> <b>Fax:</b>
<b>Functional Role(s):</b> (Recommended Distribution):	Parts Manager

### Message Categorization Information

<b>Message Type:</b>	GM Parts Bulletins & Information
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### Message Retention

<b>Release Date:</b>	09/07/2004
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**Dealer Salutation:** TO ALL BUICK DEALERS

### DESCRIPTION:

**F/CMVSS NONCOMPLIANCE RECALL #04052**  
**DATED: SEPTEMBER 7, 2004**

- General Motors has decided that certain 1999 model year Buick Century and Regal vehicles fail to conform to Federal/Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 108, Lamps, Reflective Devices, and Associated Equipment. Some of these vehicles do not meet the overhead sign illumination requirements in the Standard 108. Less illumination may reduce the ability of the driver to read overhead signs when driving at night.
- Dealers are to install new low beam headlamp bulbs in both headlamp assemblies.
- Refer to the F/CMVSS Noncompliance Bulletin for further information.

### EFFECTIVE DATE:

Owner mailing is scheduled to begin September 14, 2004.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

The Parts list follows:

Part Number	Description	Quantity/Vehicle
89024715	Bulb Asm, Hdlp (Low Beam) (2 Bulb Pkg)	1

An initial supply of bulb assemblies required to complete this recall were pre-shipped to involved Dealers of record. This pre-shipment began on September 2, 2004, and was approximately 20% of each Dealer's involved vehicles. Pre-shipped parts will be charged to Dealer's open parts account.

**VSSM Library Fields**

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Does This Document Require Action from a Field Rep? Information

**Intended Audience(s):** Area Parts Manager, Field Zone Manager, Region-NC, Region-NE, Region-SC, Region-SE, Region-W, Regional Field Operations Manager, Regional Parts Manager

**Involved Brand(s):** Buick--Century, Buick--Regal

**Document Type(s):** Parts

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**Topic:** GM Parts -- B 1999 Century, Regal Headlamp Compliance GMP04-0149/Nocompliance Recall #04052