



August 17, 2001

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

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

The following is a second supplement to our December 17, 1999 report regarding a noncompliance involving headlamps in the 1999 Buick Century and Regal model cars. This information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.69(c)(8)(ii).

573.69(c)(8): On January 14, 2000, GM submitted to the agency a petition for an exemption from the notice and remedy provisions of the Safety Act. Notice of the decision to deny GM's petition was published in the Federal Register on July 23, 2001. GM indicated in its first supplement, dated July 27, 2001 that it was reviewing whether it would pursue an appeal.

GM has decided that it will pursue an appeal and is currently in the process gathering information and test data. It is GM's intent to submit the appeal to the NHTSA by mid-September, 2001.

Several field remedies and associated service procedures are being explored to identify those that can be validated and then implemented effectively. GM has begun testing lamps and consulting with its suppliers. Testing of fourteen (14) lamps has been completed, with at least another twenty-five (25) planned.

The length of time required to initiate a recall, once a remedy is selected, ranges from approximately twenty-two (22) months for a complete replacement of the headlamp assemblies to approximately six (6) weeks for a headlamp realignment. The selection of the field remedy and validation effort will continue in parallel with the appeal process.

GM will provide a further update when the service procedure and availability of parts are known.

Sincerely,


Frank C. Bonye, Jr.
Director
Product Investigations

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