



# Recall Bulletin

File In Section: Product Recalls  
Bulletin No.: 04030  
Date: June 2004



## PRODUCT SAFETY RECALL

**SUBJECT: UNWANTED ABS ACTIVATION**

**MODELS: 2004 CHEVROLET MALIBU, MALIBU MAXX  
EQUIPPED WITH ANTI-LOCK BRAKES (ABS)**

### CONDITION

General Motors has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2004 Chevrolet Malibu and Malibu Maxx vehicles equipped with anti-lock brake system (ABS). The ABS controller may calculate a higher than actual vehicle speed if there is an erratic rear-wheel speed sensor signal. This can cause ABS activation where it is not needed or cause needed ABS activation to be extended during braking as the vehicle speed drops to about 5 km/h (3 mph). A four wheel ABS activation could occur for a maximum of 1.25 seconds on a level surface or for up to 2.5 seconds if the vehicle is on a grade, resulting in increased stopping distances of up to 3.4 m (11.4 ft.). If this condition occurs where stopping distance is limited, a crash could occur.

Some customers may experience illumination of the ABS warning lamp on the instrument panel. That can occur when the system detects the erratic speed signals and it means that the ABS is disabled. The brake system will perform normally in non-ABS mode until the vehicle is restarted and the ABS lamp is off.

### CORRECTION

Dealers are to reprogram the ABS controller.

### VEHICLES INVOLVED

Involved are certain 2004 Chevrolet Malibu and Malibu Maxx vehicles equipped with ABS and built within these VIN breakpoints:

YEAR	DIVISION	MODEL	FROM	THROUGH
2004	Chevrolet	Malibu	4F100014	4F186993
2004	Chevrolet	Malibu Maxx	4F100161	4F186994

**IMPORTANT:** Dealers should confirm vehicle eligibility through **GMVIS** (GM Vehicle Inquiry System) prior to beginning recall repairs. [Not all vehicles within the above breakpoints may be involved.]

**For US:** For dealers with involved vehicles, a Campaign Initiation Detail Report containing the complete Vehicle Identification Number, customer name and address data has been prepared and will be loaded to the GM DealerWorld, Recall Information website. Dealers that have no involved vehicles currently assigned, will not have a report available in GM DealerWorld.

**For Canada:** For dealers with involved vehicles, a Campaign Initiation Detail Report containing the complete Vehicle Identification Number, customer name and address data has been prepared, and is being furnished to involved dealers. Dealers that have no involved vehicles currently assigned, will not receive a report with the recall bulletin.

The Campaign Initiation Detail Report may contain customer names and addresses obtained from Motor Vehicle Registration Records. The use of such motor vehicle registration data for any purpose other than follow-up necessary to complete this recall is a violation of law in several states/provinces/countries. Accordingly, you are urged to limit the use of this report to the follow-up necessary to complete this recall.

#### **PARTS INFORMATION**

No parts are required for this recall.

#### **SERVICE PROCEDURE**

The following procedure provides instructions for retrieving specific diagnostic trouble codes (DTC) and reprogramming the ABS module with new software. If specific ABS DTC's are found, call the number provided in the procedure to determine if any additional repairs are needed.

#### **Important**

In order to perform the following procedure, your Tech 2 must be updated with software version 24.001 or later, CD or TIS application 4.0. If your Tech 2 does not have the necessary software, you will need to update it before proceeding.

1. Turn the ignition switch to the ON position.

#### **Important**

In order to perform the following procedure, the diagnostic interface module (CANdi) must be connected between the Tech 2 and the vehicle. Failure to use the CANdi module will result in failure of the Tech 2 to communicate with the necessary module on the vehicle.

2. Connect a Tech 2 (scan tool) and the CANdi module to the vehicle's diagnostic link connector (DLC), power it up, and press ENTER.

#### **Important**

Before reprogramming the ABS module, you must retrieve and record the occurrence of ABS DTC C0045 and/or C0050 AND the 2-character symptom byte that follows the DTC. Codes will automatically be erased during the reprogramming. The DTC's and symptom bytes retrieved must be supplied to the representative being contacted later in the

procedure. The representative will advise and authorize you to perform any additional repairs if needed.

3. Select **DIAGNOSTICS** and retrieve any current or stored ABS DTC C0045 and/or C0050 **AND** the 2-character symptom byte following the DTC. Record these DTC and symptom bytes on a piece of paper.

### **Important**

During the service reprogramming in the next step, DTC U2127 may be set in the body control module (BCM) and P1626 in the powertrain control module (PCM). These codes must be cleared immediately following the reprogramming. In addition, the IBCM 1 (30 amp) fuse located in the underhood electrical center must be removed for 10 seconds and then reinstalled. Failure to remove and reinstall this fuse will result in the HVAC system not functioning.

4. Select **SERVICE REPROGRAMMING**.
5. Follow the on-screen instructions and prompts. If necessary, refer to up-to-date Techline Equipment User Instructions.
6. Clear any DTC's set during the reprogramming.
7. Press the **EXIT** key as necessary and disconnect the Tech 2 and CANdi module from the vehicle.
8. Open the hood.
9. Remove the battery cover and fuse cover.
10. Remove the IBCM 1 fuse (30 amp) for 10 seconds and then reinstall.
11. Install the fuse cover and battery cover.
12. Close the hood.

### **ABS Diagnostic Trouble Codes**

- o If you found DTC C0045 and/or C0050 for the ABS system earlier in this procedure, you must contact a representative at the PQC at 1-866-854-7654 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM in each time zone in the continental U.S. (In Canada, Eastern to Pacific Time), Monday through Friday. When calling, you will be required to provide the VIN and the DTC and symptom byte for the ABS, found earlier.
- o If DTC C0045 and C0050 were NOT found, DO NOT call the PQC.

### **COURTESY TRANSPORTATION**

The General Motors Courtesy Transportation program is intended to minimize customer inconvenience when a vehicle requires a repair that is covered by the New Vehicle Limited Warranty. The availability of courtesy transportation to customers whose vehicles are within the warranty coverage period and involved in a product recall is very important in maintaining customer satisfaction. Dealers are to ensure that these customers understand that shuttle service or some other form of courtesy transportation is available and will be provided at no charge. Dealers should refer to the General Motors Service Policies and Procedures Manual for Courtesy Transportation guidelines.

**CLAIM INFORMATION**

Submit a Product Recall Claim with the information indicated below:

REPAIR PERFORMED	PART COUNT	PART NO.	PARTS ALLOW	CC-FC	LABOR OP	LABOR HOURS
Reprogram ABS Module	0	N/A	N/A	MA-98	V1156	0.3*
Courtesy Transportation	N/A	N/A	N/A	MA-98	**	N/A

\* For Recall Administrative Allowance, add 0.1 hours to the "Labor Hours".

\*\* Submit courtesy transportation using normal labor operations for courtesy transportation as indicated in the GM Service Policies and Procedures Manual.

Refer to the General Motors WINS Claims Processing Manual for details on Product Recall Claim Submission.

**CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION**

General Motors will notify customers of this recall on their vehicle (see copy of customer letter included with this bulletin).

**DEALER RECALL RESPONSIBILITY – For US**

The US National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act provides that each vehicle that is subject to a recall of this type must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the customer has tendered it for repair. A failure to repair within sixty days after tender of a vehicle is prima facie evidence of failure to repair within a reasonable time. If the condition is not adequately repaired within a reasonable time, the customer may be entitled to an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle at no charge or to a refund of the purchase price less a reasonable allowance for depreciation. To avoid having to provide these burdensome remedies, every effort must be made to promptly schedule an appointment with each customer and to repair their vehicle as soon as possible. In the recall notification letters, customers are told how to contact the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration if the recall is not completed within a reasonable time.

**DEALER RECALL RESPONSIBILITY - ALL**

All unsold new vehicles in dealers' possession and subject to this recall must be held and inspected/repaired per the service procedure of this recall bulletin before customers take possession of these vehicles.

Dealers are to service all vehicles subject to this recall at no charge to customers, regardless of mileage, age of vehicle, or ownership, from this time forward.

Customers who have recently purchased vehicles sold from your vehicle inventory, and for which there is no customer information indicated on the dealer listing, are to be contacted by the dealer. Arrangements are to be made to make the required correction according to the instructions contained in this bulletin. A copy of the customer letter is provided in this bulletin for your use in contacting customers. Recall follow-up cards should not be used for this purpose, since the customer may not as yet have received the notification letter.

In summary, whenever a vehicle subject to this recall enters your vehicle inventory, or is in your dealership for service in the future, you must take the steps necessary to be sure the recall correction has been made before selling or releasing the vehicle.

GM bulletins are intended for use by professional technicians, NOT a "do-it-yourselfer". They are written to inform these technicians of conditions that may occur on some vehicles, or to provide information that could assist in the proper service of a vehicle. Properly trained technicians have the tools, equipment, safety instructions, and know-how to do a job properly and safely. If a condition is described, GM/NHTSA assumes that the bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle will have that condition. See your dealer/retailer for information on whether your vehicle may benefit from the information.



**We Support  
Voluntary  
Technician  
Certification**

June 2004

Dear General Motors Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Federal regulation requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

**Reason For This Recall:** General Motors has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2004 model year Chevrolet Malibu and Malibu Maxx vehicles equipped with anti-lock brake system (ABS). The ABS controller may calculate a higher than actual vehicle speed if there is an erratic rear-wheel speed sensor signal. This can cause ABS activation where it is not needed or cause needed ABS activation to be extended during braking as the vehicle speed drops to about 5 km/h (3 mph). A four wheel ABS activation could occur for a maximum of 1.25 seconds on a level surface or for up to 2.5 seconds if the vehicle is on a grade, resulting in increased stopping distances of up to 3.4 m (11.4 ft.). If this condition occurs where stopping distance is limited, a crash could occur.

On some vehicles, the ABS warning lamp on the instrument panel may illuminate. This can occur when the system detects the erratic speed signals and it means that the ABS is disabled. The brake system will perform normally in non-ABS mode until the vehicle is restarted and the ABS lamp is off.

**What Will Be Done:** Your GM dealer will reprogram the ABS controller. This service will be performed for you at no charge.

**How Long Will The Repair Take?** This reprogram will take approximately 20 minutes. However, due to service scheduling requirements, your dealer may need your vehicle for a longer period of time.

**Contacting Your Dealer:** To limit any possible inconvenience, we recommend that you contact your GM dealer as soon as possible to schedule an appointment for this repair. Should your dealer be unable to schedule a service date within a reasonable time, you should contact the appropriate Customer Assistance Center at the listed number below. The Customer Assistance Center's hours of operation are from 8:00 AM to 11:00 PM, EST, Monday through Friday.

Division	Number	Text Telephones (TTY)
Chevrolet	1-800-830-2438	1-800-833-2438
Puerto Rico - English	1-800-496-9992	
Puerto Rico - Español	1-800-496-9993	
Virgin Islands	1-800-496-9994	

If, after contacting the appropriate Customer Assistance Center, you are still not satisfied that we have done our best to remedy this condition without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call 1-888-327-4236.

**Customer Reply Form:** The enclosed customer reply form identifies your vehicle. Presentation of this form to your dealer will assist in making the necessary correction in the

shortest possible time. If you no longer own this vehicle, please let us know by completing the form and mailing it back to us.

**Courtesy Transportation:** If your vehicle is within the New Vehicle Limited Warranty your dealer may provide you with shuttle service or some other form of courtesy transportation while your vehicle is at the dealership for this repair. Please refer to your Owner's Manual and your dealer for details on Courtesy Transportation.

**Recall Information Online:** More information about this recall (including answers to frequently asked questions) is available online at the Owner Center at My GMLink. This free online service offers vehicle and ownership related information and tools tailored to your specific vehicle. To join, visit [www.mygmLink.com](http://www.mygmLink.com), and enter your vehicle's 17-character vehicle identification number (VIN) shown on the enclosed form to get the most personalized information for your vehicle.

We are sorry to cause you this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our products.

General Motors Corporation

Enclosure  
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