



March 17, 2005

Mr. Ronald Medford
Senior Associate Administrator, Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 5321
Washington, D.C. 20590

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

05V-104
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Medford:

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 2003-2005 model year Chevrolet and GMC Medium Duty Conventional Cab model trucks.

573.6(c)(1): Chevrolet and GMC 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 2003-2005 model year Chevrolet and GMC Medium Duty Conventional Cab model trucks. The subject trucks were produced with a body wiring harness with no protective conduit in the area under the driver's feet to reduce the potential for harness wear. The higher the frequency of operators entering and exiting the vehicles, the higher the potential for harness wears. The body wiring harness includes SDM wiring that could be damaged from chafing and wear by vehicle operators, which can result in inadvertent airbag deployment. A person may receive minor injuries, such as abrasions, from contact with the bag.

573.6(c)(6): On February 5, 2005 the General Motors Electrical Design Responsible Engineer began investigating two reports of inadvertent driver airbag deployment received from a Field Service Engineer. The involving vehicles were both commercial food delivery trucks. GM Engineering reviewed 13 vehicles from a commercial fleet in Jackson Michigan on February 21, 2005, and 2 vehicles were observed to have wiring harness wear. A Product Investigations Engineer was assigned to lead the investigation on February 24, 2005.

The investigation disclosed that the body wiring harness for the 2003-2005 Medium Duty pickups has no protective conduit to reduce the potential for harness wear. As the driver gets in and out of the vehicle, he/she may step directly onto the wiring harness which is located under the driver's floor mat. The higher the frequency of ingress/egress, the higher potential for wear. The harness has sixteen wires. Four of the sixteen have power (12 Volts). If the insulation is worn from the driver or passenger airbag wiring and this wire then contacts a 12 volt wire and the other airbag wire is grounded, an airbag deployment could occur.

The issue was presented to the FPE Director on March 3, 2005. The issue was presented to the GMNA Senior Management Committee (SMC) and on March 14, 2005 the Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to inspect the wiring harness for potential damage, repair or replace the harness if required and add conduit to all harnesses.

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Pursuant to 577.11(e), GM will provide reimbursement to owners for repairs completed on or before ten days after the owner mailing is completed, according to the plan submitted on January 14, 2005.

573.6(c)(9): GM will submit a draft copy of the dealer bulletin and owner letter and scheduled mailing dates when available.

Sincerely,



Gay P. Kent
Director

Product Investigations

05035
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 (FROM) (TO)</u>		<u>DESCRIPTIVE INFO. TO PROPERLY IDENT. VEH.</u>	<u>EST. NO. W/CONDITION</u>
Chevrolet	GMT 560	2003	5,642	08/30/01	06/20/03	Med Duty Conv Cab	* Unknown
Chevrolet	GMT 560	2004	4,248	05/23/03	06/28/04	Med Duty Conv Cab	* Unknown
Chevrolet	GMT 560	2005	3,492	05/04/04	02/16/05	Med Dury Conv Cab	* Unknown
GMC	GMT 560	2003	4,455	08/30/01	06/20/03	Med Duty Conv Cab	* Unknown
GMC	GMT 560	2004	3,890	05/23/03	06/28/04	Med Duty Conv Cab	* Unknown
GMC	GMT 560	2005	<u>3,148</u>	05/04/04	02/16/05	Med Duty Conv Cab	* Unknown
GM Total:			24,875				

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