

2005 OCT -5 A 9:48

OFFICE OF  
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

October 4, 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

05V-455  
(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 2005-2006 model year Chevrolet Corvette, Silverado; GMC Sierra and 2006 model year Chevrolet Express, TrailBlazer, TrailBlazer EXT, Tahoe; GMC Envoy, Envoy XL, Savana, Yukon; Buick Rainier, Cadillac Escalade; Isuzu Ascender and Hummer H2 model vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Chevrolet, GMC, Buick, Cadillac, Isuzu and Hummer 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 certain 2005-2006 model year Chevrolet Corvette, Silverado; GMC Sierra and 2006 model year Chevrolet Express, TrailBlazer, TrailBlazer EXT, Tahoe; GMC Envoy, Envoy XL, Savana, Yukon; Buick Rainier, Cadillac Escalade; Isuzu Ascender and Hummer H2 model vehicles were shipped with a high pressure power-steering hose manufactured with an incorrect compound making the hose susceptible to high pressure failure when exposed to the elevated hydraulic fluid temperatures and pressures that can occur during simultaneous braking and steering inputs (for example, parking lot maneuvers when the steering wheel is turned to a full stop position while braking, and/or curb strikes).

When sufficient fluid is lost, power assist for steering is no longer available and vehicle directional control will depend on manual steering efforts. In addition, braking assist will be limited to the reserve power assist system if the vehicle is equipped with the Hydroboost braking system. The braking systems on vehicles without Hydroboost are unaffected by this condition.

In addition, there is a possibility that power steering fluid could flow onto the surface of exhaust system components where surface temperatures could exceed the ignition temperature of the fluid and could result in a fire without prior warning.

573.6(c)(6): On August 18, 2005, the supplier initiated containment efforts within their facility by stopping production and working with their customer support engineers and General Motors to contain suspect product from entering into the assembly process and into commerce. All assembly plant yards were shut down and steps were taken to establish a breakpoint for certified material.

On August 23, 2005, GM assigned a Field Performance Assessment Engineer to investigate the effects of the condition.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee (FPERC) and on September 27, 2005, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee (EFADC) decided to conduct a safety recall. There are no reported failures to date.

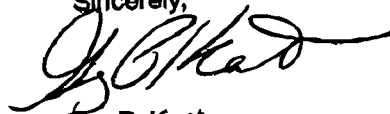
573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to inspect the power steering hose assemblies for the suspect codes, and replace the suspect material with the new parts currently released for production. Estimate 15% of the hoses are affected.

Letter to Mr. Ronald Medford  
05086  
October 4, 2005  
Page 2

Pursuant to 577.11(e), GM will not provide reimbursement to owners for repairs completed being all vehicles are covered under warranty.

573.6(c)(9): GM will provide copies of the dealer bulletin and owner letter when available. GM plans to send the recall bulletin to dealers on October 7, 2005 and mail owner letters on October 14, 2005.

Sincerely,



Gay P. Kent  
Director

Product Investigations

05086  
Attachments

573.6(c)(2),(3),(4)

VEHICLES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY MAKE, MODEL, AND MODEL YEAR  
PLUS INCLUSIVE DATES OF MANUFACTURE

MAKE	MODEL SERIES	MODEL YEAR	NUMBER INVOLVED	INCLUSIVE MANUFACTURING DATES		DESCRIPTIVE INFO. TO PROPERLY IDENT. VEH.	EST. NO. W/CONDITION
				(FROM)	(TO)		
Chevrolet	Y	2005	1,890	07/2005	08/2005	Corvette	15%
Chevrolet	Y	2006	131	07/2005	08/2005	Corvette	"
Chevrolet	C/K	2005	952	07/2005	08/2005	Silverado	"
Chevrolet	C/K	2006	48,262	07/2005	08/2005	Silverado -	"
Chevrolet	C/K	2006	7,531	07/2005	08/2005	Tahoe	"
Chevrolet	S/T	2006	15,595	07/2005	08/2005	TrailBlazer -	"
Chevrolet	S/T	2006	6,968	07/2005	08/2005	TrailBlazer EXT -	"
Chevrolet	G	2006	8,637	07/2005	08/2005	Express -	"
GMC	C/K	2005	2,394	07/2005	08/2005	Sierra	"
GMC	C/K	2006	12,900	07/2005	08/2005	Sierra -	"
GMC	C/K	2006	2,164	07/2005	08/2005	Yukon	"
GMC	S/T	2006	5,083	07/2005	08/2005	Envoy -	"
GMC	S/T	2006	3,168	07/2005	08/2005	Envoy XL -	"
GMC	G	2006	2,286	07/2005	08/2005	Savana -	"
Buick	S/T	2006	345	07/2005	08/2005	Rainier	"
Cadillac	C/K	2006	2,871	07/2005	08/2005	Escalade	"
Isuzu	S/T	2006	1,085	07/2005	08/2005	Ascender <	"
Hummer	N	2006	1,330	07/2005	08/2005	H2 <	"

Estimated GM Total: 123,592