



GENERAL MOTORS NORTH AMERICA
Structure & Safety Integration

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Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 5321, MC: NVS-200
Washington, D.C. 20590

06V-066
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.5 as it applies to a determination by General Motors of a safety defect involving certain 1999-00 model year (GMT800) Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra model trucks.

573.6(c)(1): Chevrolet and GMC Brands 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 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra model trucks. These vehicles have galvanized-braided-steel tailgate support cables used to support the tailgate in the full open (horizontal) position that can corrode over time and fracture when loads are applied to them. The tailgate cables are located in an area of the vehicle that is open to the environmental elements at the trailing end of the vehicle. Moisture may enter between the metal strands of the cable through the crimped edge of the lug at either end. If there is any cracking or tearing of the plastic sheathing that covers the steel cable, another moisture entry point will be created. Cracking or tearing of the plastic sheathing is possible during normal usage of the vehicle as cargo is loaded and unloaded. Both cable ends are oriented vertically while the gate is in the closed (upright) position. Moisture entering in the manner described may be retained within the galvanized strands of the cable due to the plastic sheathing. This moisture may tend to collect and concentrate near the center of the cable, which is the lowest point while the gate is in the closed position.

Tailgate support cable corrosion is visible on the exposed galvanized steel cable that may result from any nicks, cuts or abrasions in the plastic sheathing that covers the steel cable. Corrosion is also indicated by visible irregularities in the plastic sheathing such as swelling, bulging or splitting. If one cable fractures, the remaining cable may retain the tailgate in a horizontal position. If both cables fracture, the tailgate would drop approximately 10° and strike the top surface of the rear bumper. If anyone is sitting or standing on the horizontal surface of the tailgate when both cables fracture, they could fall and be injured. On vehicles without a bumper, the tailgate may drop to a lower position.

573.6(c)(6): On March 10, 2004 GM decided to conduct a Safety Recall on 2000 – 2003 MY Chevrolet and GMC pickup and sport utility trucks built after October 17, 1999 (Campaign 04V-129).

A NHTSA Information Request (IR) was received November 18, 2004 regarding 1999 and 2000 (MY) GMT800 Sierra and Silverado pickup trucks not included in Campaign 04V-129. On January 14, 2005 GM submitted a response to the NHTSA (IR). The response indicated that General Motors continued to investigate, analyze, test and evaluate failed tailgate support cables. GM's continuing investigation confirmed that there are significant differences; (1) in the tailgate support cable material composition, (2) complaints regarding failed tailgate support cables, and (3) warranty claim rate for the GMT800 Sierra and Silverado pickup trucks produced prior to October 1999 and the recalled vehicles.

Product Investigations

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06019 - 573 Letter.doc



Letter to Mr. Daniel C. Smith
06019
March 8, 2006
Page 2

GM decided on March 3, 2006 to conduct a Safety Recall on 1999-2000 GMT800 pick-up trucks for the subject issue. GM will mail owner letters containing the statements required by 49 C.F.R. Part 577. The repairs will be made at no charge to the customer.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to replace the galvanized support cables with stainless steel support cables. In addition, dealers are to inspect the tailgate hinge and replace it, if necessary.

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): General Motors plans to start notifying customers in April 2006, when the necessary parts are available. Draft copies of the dealer bulletin, owner notification and the scheduled mailing dates will be forwarded to NHTSA when available.

Sincerely,



Gay P. Kent
Director

Product Investigations

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Attachment

573.5(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</u>		<u>DESCRIPTIVE INFO. TO PROPERLY IDENT. VEH.</u>	<u>EST. NO. W/CONDITION</u>
				<u>(FROM)</u>	<u>(TO)</u>		
Chevrolet	CK	1999	429,882	03/1998	07/1999	Silverado	* Unknown
Chevrolet	CK	2000	177,436	02/1999	10/1999	Silverado	"
GMC	CK	1999	143,484	03/1998	07/1999	Sierra	"
GMC	CK	2000	54,566	02/1999	10/1999	Sierra	"
Grand Total:			805,368				

* All involved vehicles will be corrected.

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