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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

April 4, 2006

06V-105
(3 pages)

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

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 2006 model year Buick Lucerne and Cadillac DTS model vehicles equipped with a V8 engine.

573.6(c)(1): Buick and Cadillac 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 2006 Buick Lucerne and Cadillac DTS vehicles equipped with a V8 engine. Some of these vehicles may have been built with a power steering hose that is not to specification and may separate and leak fluid. If this were to occur, power steering assist may be lost and increased steering effort would be required at low speeds. If the power steering fluid were to contact hot engine parts, an engine compartment fire could occur.

573.6(c)(6): On February 22, 2006, the Brand Quality Manager (BQM) found a power steering hose at the GM Warranty Parts Center (WPC) that had separated at one of the crimps. This part was provided to the supplier.

The supplier had introduced a new crimping machine for the power steering hose on September 8, 2005 that was not fully error proofed. The process should have destroyed any part if the crimping cycle was not complete. However, the controls were not put in place to do that. In addition, the system allowed the operator to manually override the machine and remove parts that had not been crimped to specification. The manual override of the machine should have resulted in the destruction of the hose.

On March 8, 2006, the BQM learned that a recent review of field reports showed five vehicles with underhood thermal events. This information was forwarded to Product Investigations and a product investigator was assigned to the issue.

Photos were provided by the BQM to the supplier and the investigator. Data sharing, warranty data pulls and dealer contacts helped to determine the hose separation was the cause for the underhood thermal events.

On March 20, 2006, representatives from GM Supplier Quality Assurance traveled to the supplier in Traverse City, Michigan to understand what vehicle build dates were affected. In the interviews with operators it was determined that the suspect parts were built from December 13, 2005 through December 22, 2005. These component build dates correlate with the vehicle production dates where the hose separations have been documented.

There have been twenty four reports of a power steering hose separating at one of the four crimp locations. Seven of these reports have resulted in underhood thermal events.

Product Investigations

Mail Code: 480-111-E18 • 30200 Mound Road • Warren, MI 48090-9010
06026 - 573 Letter



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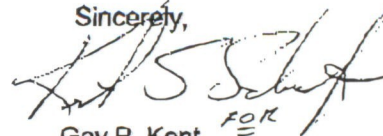
The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee (FPERC) and on March 28, 2006, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee (EFADC) decided to conduct a safety recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to replace the power steering hose.

Pursuant to 577.11(e), GM does not plan to provide notice about reimbursement to owners because all vehicles are covered under the new vehicle warranty.

573.6(c)(9): General Motors notified NHTSA verbally on March 28, 2006 and provided the recall bulletin to the dealers and NHTSA on the same day. The owner letters were mailed on March 29, 2006.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gay P. Kent". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line under the name.

Gay P. Kent
Director
Product Investigations

06026
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 (FROM) (TO)</u> | | <u>DESCRIPTIVE INFO. TO PROPERLY IDENT. VEH.</u> | <u>EST. NO. W/CONDITION</u> |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--|---------|--|-----------------------------|
| Buick | H | 2006 | 3,376 | 12/2005 | 02/2006 | Lucerne | *Unknown |
| Cadillac | K | 2006 | 9,486 | 12/2005 | 02/2006 | DTS | " |
| Grand Total: | | | 12,862 | | | | |

* All involved vehicles will be corrected.

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