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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

August 7, 2007

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

07V-349  
(3 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

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 2002-2004 model year Buick Rendezvous, Chevrolet Venture, and 2001-2004 model year Pontiac Aztek and Montana model vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Buick, Chevrolet and Pontiac 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 2002-2004 model year Buick Rendezvous, Chevrolet Venture (regular wheelbase), and 2001-2004 model year Pontiac Aztek and Montana (regular wheelbase) vehicles. The vehicle population is Rendezvous and Aztek vehicles built in May 2003, Venture and Montana vehicles built in June through August 2002 and all vehicles registered in Nevada, Arizona, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hawaii. Variations in the manufacturing process or exposure to high ambient temperatures may lead to fracture of the fuel tank inlet check valve (ICV) on some of these vehicles. A fracture may allow fuel vapors to pass through and allow droplets of fuel to accumulate on the side of the fuel tank.

573.6(c)(6): On December 22, 2006, NHTSA notified GM that RQ06-009 had been initiated. In January 2007, GM began an investigation.

A team was formed to investigate the issues and analyze the subject vehicle's ICV. From March, 2007 through June 2007 the team:

- Evaluated fuel tanks retrieved from various build dates and regions.
- Conducted Finite Element Analysis of Fuel Tank/ICV.
- Performed a Design of Experiments – parts were manufactured and tested to try to correlate field findings and determine material and manufacturing variables relevant to the issue.
- Analyzed warranty data.

The team found that elevated ambient temperatures, higher carbon content in the ICV and variation in the manufacturing process are contributing factors for potential cracks in the ICV.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee and on August 2, 2007, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers will replace the fuel tank.

Pursuant to 577.11(e), General Motors will provide reimbursement to owners for repairs completed on or before ten days after GM mails owner letters, pursuant to the plan submitted on January 8, 2007.

**Product Investigations**

Mail Code: 480-210-G11 • 30001 Van Dyke • Warren, MI 48090-9055  
573 Letter 06230.doc



Letter to Mr. Daniel C. Smith  
06230  
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573.6(c)(9): General Motors will provide copies of the dealer bulletin, owner letter and mail dates when available .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Kent", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gay P. Kent  
Director

Product Investigations

06230  
Attachment

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)		
Buick	B-Van	2002	1,653	02/2001	06/2002	** Rendezvous	*
Buick	B-Van	2003	1,407	06/2002	04/2003	** Rendezvous	"
Buick	B-Van	2003	6,698	05/2003	05/2003	*** Rendezvous	"
Buick	B-Van	2004	621	05/2003	11/2003	** Rendezvous	"
Chevrolet	U-Van	2002	1,266	06/2001	05/2002	** Venture	"
Chevrolet	U-Van	2003	1,869	06/2002	08/2002	*** Venture	"
Chevrolet	U-Van	2003	452	09/2002	06/2003	** Venture	"
Chevrolet	U-Van	2004	203	06/2003	12/2003	** Venture	"
Pontiac	U-Van	2001	183	05/2000	10/2001	** Montana	"
Pontiac	U-Van	2002	216	02/2001	06/2002	** Montana	"
Pontiac	U-Van	2003	1,068	06/2002	08/2002	*** Montana	"
Pontiac	U-Van	2003	100	09/2002	05/2003	** Montana	"
Pontiac	U-Van	2004	41	05/2003	11/2003	** Montana	"
Pontiac	B-Van	2001	1,145	05/2000	10/2001	** Aztek	"
Pontiac	B-Van	2002	347	06/2001	05/2002	** Aztek	"
Pontiac	B-Van	2003	633	06/2002	04/2003	** Aztek	"
Pontiac	B-Van	2003	2,410	05/2003	05/2003	*** Aztek	"
Pontiac	B-Van	2004	282	06/2003	12/2003	** Aztek	"
GM Total:			20,594				

\* All involved vehicles will be corrected.

\*\* Registered in Nevada, Arizona, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

\*\*\* Registered in all states.