



March 12, 2008

08V-118
(3 pages)

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE – Room W45-306
Washington, D.C. 20590

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 1997-2003 model year Buick Regal GS and Pontiac Grand Prix GTP vehicles, equipped with a 3.8L (L67) supercharged engine.

573.6(c)(1): Buick 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 1997-2003 model year Buick Regal and Pontiac Grand Prix vehicles, equipped with a 3.8L supercharged engine. We believe that certain underhood fires may be caused by drops of engine oil being deposited on the exhaust manifold through hard braking. If the manifold is hot enough and the oil runs below the heat shield, it may ignite into a small flame and in some instances the fire may spread to the plastic spark plug wire channel. This may have occurred in about one in one thousand vehicles. We are working with our suppliers to obtain parts so we can begin a recall to correct this condition as quickly as possible.

573.6(c)(6): On January 29, 2007, the NHTSA opened a Preliminary Evaluation on the 1999-2002 Pontiac Grand Prix GTP (supercharged) vehicles.

GM put together a cross functional team of engineers to evaluate the underhood content and potential causes that could support the reports of underhood fires that were observed shortly after the vehicle was stopped and ignition turned off. Incident and exemplar vehicles were inspected and some vehicles were evaluated in the climatic wind tunnel.

On June 14, 2007, the NHTSA upgraded the investigation to an Engineering Analysis.

To assist with root cause determination, two paths were examined which included upper and lower engine locations for fire origin, and materials that may cause the fire to spread. The lower path focused on the transmission oil cooler lines and transmission fluid. The upper path analysis examined substances that included gasoline, electrical components, and engine oil. Related to that was the review of ignition sources of an electrical arc, hot surface ignition, or a high resistive circuit (HRC). Additional incident vehicles were inspected and further evaluations were made in the climatic wind tunnel. Field data was analyzed and component, engine, and vehicle tests were performed.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee and on March 5, 2008, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

Product Investigations

Mail Code: 480-210-G11 • 30001 Van Dyke Road • Warren, MI 48090-9020
N070035 - 573 Letter.doc

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

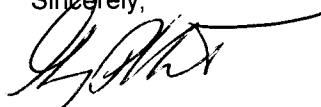
Letter to Mr. Daniel C. Smith
N070035
March 12, 2008
Page 2

573.6(c)(8): GM will provide this information when it is available.

GM will provide information about reimbursement when it is available.

573.6(c)(9): General Motors will provide copies of the dealer bulletin, owner letter and mail dates when available. A preliminary owner letter is scheduled for mailing on March 13, 2008.

Sincerely,

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

Gay P. Kent
Director
Product Investigations

N070035
Attachment

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	W	1997	8,802	08/1996	07/1997	Regal GS *
Buick	W	1998	22,843	04/1997	08/1998	Regal GS "
Buick	W	1999	18,250	03/1998	07/1999	Regal GS "
Buick	W	2000	13,041	03/1999	06/2000	Regal GS "
Buick	W	2001	7,523	05/2000	06/2001	Regal GS "
Buick	W	2002	5,664	03/2001	06/2002	Regal GS "
Buick	W	2003	3,285	04/2002	06/2003	Regal GS "
Pontiac	W	1997	25,181	03/1996	06/1997	Grand Prix GTP "
Pontiac	W	1998	28,183	03/1997	08/1998	Grand Prix GTP "
Pontiac	W	1999	20,922	03/1998	07/1999	Grand Prix GTP "
Pontiac	W	2000	24,509	04/1999	06/2000	Grand Prix GTP "
Pontiac	W	2001	12,028	03/2000	06/2001	Grand Prix GTP "
Pontiac	W	2002	13,248	03/2001	06/2002	Grand Prix GTP "
Pontiac	W	2003	4,063	05/2002	01/2003	Grand Prix GTP "
GM Total:			207,542			

* All involved vehicles will be inspected and corrected as necessary.