



April 8, 2009

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 Buick Regal, 1998-1999 Chevrolet Lumina, 1998-2003 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, 2000-2003 Chevrolet Impala, 1998-1999 Oldsmobile Intrigue and 1997-2003 Pontiac Grand Prix vehicles equipped with 3.8L V6 Naturally Aspirated Engine (RPO L36 – VIN K).

573.6(c)(1): Buick, Chevrolet, Oldsmobile 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, 1998-1999 model year Chevrolet Lumina and Oldsmobile Intrigue, 1998-2003 model year Chevrolet Monte Carlo, and 2000-2003 model year Chevrolet Impala model vehicles, equipped with a 3.8L V6 naturally aspirated engine (RPO L36 – VIN K). Some of these vehicles have a condition in which drops of engine oil may be deposited on the exhaust manifold through hard braking. If the manifold is hot enough and the oil runs below the heat shield, in rare instances, it may ignite into a small flame and may spread to the plastic spark plug wire channel and beyond.

573.6(c)(6): In April 2008, GM released a recall in response to an Engineering Analysis (EA07-008). In comparison, the rate of underhood fires in the L36 vehicles was significantly lower than L67 vehicles. At that time, test results also indicated that the L36 rocker cover gaskets experienced significantly lower temperatures, and therefore would have a longer life, than the L67 gaskets. In comparison, the L36 rocker cover warranty rates for gasket leaks was 1/6 the rate of the L67 at 6 years of exposure.

In July 2008, GM reviewed TREAD Data for underhood fires on L36-W cars

On October 14, 2008, GM reviewed claims for underhood fires on L36-W cars.

On November 1, 2008, a Product Investigation Engineer was assigned to evaluate the condition.

On January 21, 2009, GM updated the July summary of TREAD Data for underhood fires on L36-W cars.

In February and March 2009, GM continued its investigation.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee and on April 7, 2009, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to remove the spark plug wire retention channel at the front of engine and install two new spark plug wire retainers.

Pursuant to 577.11(e), reimbursement to owners does not apply because the remedy was not available prior to this recall.

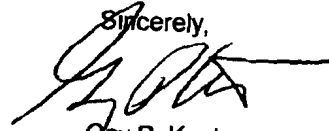
Product Investigations

Mail Code: 480-210-G11 • 30001 Van Dyke Road • Warren, MI 48090-9020
N090047 - 573 Letter.doc

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573.6(c)(9): The dealer bulletin and owner letter will be provided when available. It is anticipated that the dealer bulletin and owner letters will be sent May 2009.

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

N090047
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 | W | 1997 | 12,847 | 08/1996 | 07/1997 | Regal | * |
| Buick | W | 1998 | 47,377 | 04/1997 | 08/1998 | Regal | " |
| Buick | W | 1999 | 54,793 | 03/1998 | 07/1999 | Regal | " |
| Buick | W | 2000 | 49,436 | 03/1999 | 06/2000 | Regal | " |
| Buick | W | 2001 | 44,968 | 05/2000 | 06/2001 | Regal | " |
| Buick | W | 2002 | 33,459 | 03/2001 | 06/2002 | Regal | " |
| Buick | W | 2003 | 32,088 | 04/2002 | 06/2003 | Regal | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 1998 | 19,796 | 05/1997 | 08/1998 | Lumina | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 1999 | 15,890 | 03/1998 | 05/1999 | Lumina | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 1998 | 19,702 | 05/1997 | 08/1998 | Monte Carlo | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 1999 | 15,352 | 03/1998 | 05/1999 | Monte Carlo | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 2000 | 30,078 | 11/1998 | 06/2000 | Monte Carlo | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 2001 | 37,689 | 05/2000 | 06/2001 | Monte Carlo | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 2002 | 38,970 | 03/2001 | 06/2002 | Monte Carlo | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 2003 | 37,983 | 03/2002 | 06/2003 | Monte Carlo | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 2000 | 99,551 | 11/1998 | 06/2000 | Impala | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 2001 | 84,468 | 05/2000 | 06/2001 | Impala | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 2002 | 83,263 | 03/2001 | 06/2002 | Impala | " |
| Chevrolet | W | 2003 | 93,117 | 03/2002 | 06/2003 | Impala | " |
| Oldsmobile | W | 1998 | 98,798 | 11/1996 | 08/1998 | Intrigue | " |
| Oldsmobile | W | 1999 | 37,065 | 04/1998 | 02/1999 | Intrigue | " |
| Pontiac | W | 1997 | 107,944 | 03/1996 | 06/1997 | Grand Prix | " |
| Pontiac | W | 1998 | 70,128 | 03/1997 | 08/1998 | Grand Prix | " |
| Pontiac | W | 1999 | 85,674 | 03/1998 | 07/1999 | Grand Prix | " |
| Pontiac | W | 2000 | 90,334 | 04/1999 | 06/2000 | Grand Prix | " |
| Pontiac | W | 2001 | 61,825 | 03/2000 | 06/2001 | Grand Prix | " |
| Pontiac | W | 2002 | 67,114 | 03/2001 | 06/2002 | Grand Prix | " |
| Pontiac | W | 2003 | 27,807 | 05/2002 | 02/2003 | Grand Prix | " |
| GM Total: | | | 1,497,516 | | | | |

* All involved vehicles will be corrected as necessary.

NO90047