



December 17, 2010

10V-643
(3 Pages)

Mr. Claude Harris
Acting 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. Harris:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 as it applies to a determination by General Motors to conduct a safety related recall for certain 2011 Cadillac Escalade EXT, Chevrolet Avalanche and Silverado LD and GMC Sierra LD vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Cadillac, Chevrolet and GMC Brands of General Motors LLC

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 2011 model year Cadillac Escalade EXT; Chevrolet Avalanche, Silverado; and GMC Sierra vehicles. Some of these vehicles have a condition in which the rear axle cross pin was not manufactured to specification. The pin was improperly heat treated and could fracture and become displaced within the rear axle. If this were to occur, the driver may hear a banging noise coming from the axle. If the pin shifts out of position, it could create an interference condition and cause the rear axle to lock. The driver may not be able to maintain directional control of the vehicle and a crash could occur without prior warning.

573.6(c)(6): A rear axle cross pin fracture was first discovered at the end of vehicle assembly on November 25, 2010. GM Engineering first became aware of the issue on November 29, 2010. Containment was put in place at the axle supplier on December 2, 2010. Analysis was conducted in early December to understand the root cause and scope of the condition.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee and on December 17, 2010, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to install a new rear axle cross pin.



GM sent the dealer bulletin on December 16, 2010. Dealers have been instructed to contact owners of any sold vehicles and have the vehicle returned to the dealership by flatbed for repair. GM Customer Assistance Center will also be calling all customers to inform them of this recall and facilitate a return of the vehicle to the dealership. GM will mail letters early January 2011 to any owners whose vehicle has not been repaired.

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

573.6(c)(10): The dealer bulletin is included with this letter. GM will provide the owner letter when available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Carmen Benavides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "M." and last name "Benavides" clearly distinguishable.

M. Carmen Benavides
Director, Product Investigations
and Safety Regulations

N100426
Attachment

573.6(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>
Cadillac	C/K	2011	5	11/27/2010 12/03/2010	Escalade EXT	*
Chevrolet	C/K	2011	40	11/26/2010 12/03/2010	Avalanche	"
Chevrolet	C/K	2011	816	11/25/2010 12/04/2010	Silverado LD	"
GMC	C/K	2011	401	11/25/2010 12/04/2010	Sierra LD	"
GM Total:			1,262			

* All involved vehicles will be corrected as necessary.

573.6(c)(2)(iv): The rear axle assembly is supplied by American Axle Manufacturing.

American Axle Manufacturing
World Headquarters
One Dauch Drive
Detroit, MI 48211-1198
Phone: (313) 758-2000

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