



GENERAL MOTORS LLC
Global Interior and Safety Center

12V-112
(3 Pages)

March 22, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE – Room W45-306
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis:

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 2012 model year Chevrolet Express and Suburban heavy duty vehicles, and GMC Savana and Yukon XL heavy duty vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Chevrolet and GMC Brands of General Motors Company

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 2012 model year Chevrolet Express and Suburban heavy duty vehicles, and GMC Savana and Yukon XL heavy duty vehicles. The steering gear pitman shaft may not have been properly hardened and could fracture. If a fracture occurs and progresses completely through the shaft, it could result in the loss of steering. If this happens while the vehicle is moving, a crash could occur.

573.6(c)(6): The condition was discovered by the supplier during testing of steering gear units. During an analysis of the failed test parts, they were found to have improper heat treatment. On February 27, 2012, the supplier notified GM of this issue and a GM Product Investigations engineer was assigned to investigate. The supplier provided the nature of the defect, the test results, details of the heat treatment process failure, the supplier's production breakpoints, lot numbers affected and dates on which those lots were shipped to GM facilities. The supplier indicated the issue was the result of damaged coils in their heat treatment equipment and the inability of their metallurgical inspection process to identify the non-conforming condition. The affected GM facilities identified the dates on which the suspect lots were used for vehicle production, the corresponding VIN lists and contained all suspect vehicles in their control. There are no reports of crash, injury or property damage; component testing suggests that a fatigue failure due to this condition would not occur for at least 5 months in service for the most severe usage.



The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee and on March 15, 2012, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

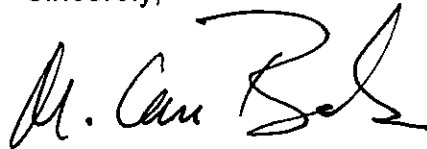
573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to inspect the steering gear and, if necessary, replace the steering gear pitman shaft.

GM anticipates sending the dealer bulletin on March 28, 2012, and mailing owner letters on April 4, 2012.

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): GM will provide copies of the dealer bulletin and owner letter under separate cover.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Carmen Benavides". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

M. Carmen Benavides, Director
Product Investigations and Safety Regulations

12055
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>
Chevrolet	G Van	2012	4,260	01/27/2012	02/27/2012	HD Express	*
Chevrolet	K	2012	144	02/07/2012	02/22/2012	HD Suburban	"
GMC	G Van	2012	1,733	01/27/2012	02/27/2012	HD Savana	"
GMC	K	2012	22	02/07/2012	02/22/2012	HD Yukon XL	"
GM Total:			6,159				

* All involved vehicles will be corrected as necessary.

573.6(c)(2)(iv): Supplier name, contact information:
John Riester, Quality Director for Driveline, Hydraulics, Steering Columns
Nexteer Automotive Corporation
3900 Holland Road
Saginaw, MI 48601-9494
1-989-757-5450
john.riester@nexteer.com