

12V-522
(3 pages)

October 30, 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 Buick Verano and Chevrolet Cruze and Sonic vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Buick and Chevrolet 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 Buick Verano and Chevrolet Cruze and Sonic vehicles. Some of these vehicles have a condition in which the shorting bar inside of the dual stage driver's airbag may occasionally contact the primary stage airbag terminals. If contact occurs, the airbag warning light will illuminate. In the event of a crash, if the bar and terminals are contacting each other, the primary stage airbag will not deploy, resulting in increased risk of personal injury.

573.6(c)(6): On June 13, 2012, 15 consecutive vehicles in the Lordstown Assembly Plant set a diagnostic trouble code which indicates low resistance in the primary stage of the airbag. Vehicles in the Lordstown Assembly yard were immediately held and a read across of other GM Assembly Plants using the same airbag connector was completed. No issues were found in two of the assembly plants. However, some Lake Orion (Verano & Sonic) vehicles set the same low resistance diagnostic code and those vehicles were held.

On June 13, 2012, members of GM Engineering and the supplier traveled to the Lordstown Assembly Plant to investigate the issue. On June 14, 2012, a Red X Team assembled at the supplier with technical experts from the connector supplier. A sorting process was established at GM Assembly Plants to remove suspect parts from the population. On June 15, 2012, the root cause was identified and on June 16, 2012, the assembly tool was repaired. The parts made on the improved tool were in production on June 22, 2012.



Although GM believed that it had held and repaired all affected vehicles, to ensure that the proper repair procedure (airbag replace) would be used if the relevant airbag DTCs were found by a dealer, on June 28 GM wrote a Preliminary Information (PI) bulletin. The bulletin was issued on July 17, 2012. On August 22, 2012, NHTSA contacted General Motors' with questions about the Preliminary Information Bulletin. As a follow-up to that discussion, GM responded on August 28 providing some preliminary information on the issue. On September 18, 2012, a Product Investigations engineer was assigned to investigate the issue in more detail. GM further discussed this issue with NHTSA on October 4, 2012 and October 9, 2012, providing additional details. On October 19, 2012, GM performed a more in-depth analysis of the warranty data which identified additional claims that may be related to this issue. All claims were then analyzed by day of vehicle build which showed elevated rates on vehicles built between June 11, 2012 and June 22, 2012.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee and on October 23, 2012, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to replace the steering wheel airbag coil, which will eliminate contact between the shorting bar and airbag terminals.

GM will provide the dealer bulletin and owner letter mail dates when available.

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,



M. Carmen Benavides, Director
Product Investigations and Safety Regulations

12261
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>
Buick	P	2012	308	04/02/1012	06/28/2012	Verano	*
Chevrolet	P	2012	1,944	04/11/1012	06/29/2012	Cruze	"
Chevrolet	J	2012	697	06/12/1012	06/27/2012	Sonic	"
GM Total:			2,949				

* All involved vehicles will be corrected as necessary.

573.6(c)(2)(iv): TK Holdings Inc.
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Auburn Hill, MI 48326
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The suspect parts are made in Mexico.

12261 - Revised 11-12-12 to provide vehicle population and production dates.