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By Recall Management Division at 7:21 pm, Sep 26, 2013

September 26, 2013

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 recall for certain 2013-2014 model year (MY) Chevrolet Sonic vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Chevrolet Brand 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 2013-2014 MY Chevrolet Sonic vehicles. A front fuel tank strap bracket may separate from the vehicle due to insufficient welds. If this occurs, the increased load on the remaining bracket would likely cause it to separate. The fuel tank would not be supported by the fuel tank straps and would rest on the exhaust pipe and/or the plastic fuel tank shield. If this occurs, the occupants may hear a rattling or scraping noise. If the fuel tank shield and fuel filler neck do not support the fuel tank, the fuel tank may separate from the vehicle. If the fuel tank is punctured, and if a source of ignition is present, a fire may occur.

573.6(c)(6): On August 7, 2013, this issue was discovered at the assembly plant. Upon opening a supplier shipment, an operator found a 2014 MY Sonic front fuel tank strap bracket separated from the underbody #4 crossmember sill. GM immediately held and inspected the assembly plant yard vehicles.

On August 13, 2013, GM began an investigation to find if vehicles built with suspect material were delivered to dealerships. Approximately ten days later, the investigation determined that uninspected vehicles built during the suspect dates were shipped to dealers.

There are no field claims for this issue for the 2013 or 2014 Sonic.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee and on September 19, 2013, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.



573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to inspect the front fuel tank strap bracket and repair if required.  
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.

573.6(c)(11): GM's assigned recall number is 13296.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Carmen Benavides". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

M. Carmen Benavides, Director  
Product Investigations and Safety Regulations

13296  
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	J	2013	1,338	08/02/2013	08/09/2013	Sonic	*
Chevrolet	J	2014	220	08/12/2013	08/12/2013	Sonic	"
GM Total:			1,558				

\* All involved vehicles will be corrected as necessary.

573.6(c)(2)(iv): P&F Tool and Die  
180 Confederation Blvd.  
Concord, Ontario L4K 4T8  
Phone number: (905) 738-4108

The involved part, the tank assembly, is manufactured in Canada.