



GENERAL MOTORS LLC  
Vehicle Safety and Crashworthiness

**RECEIVED**

By Recall Management Division at 9:20 am, Nov 13, 2013

13V-566  
(3 pages)

November 12, 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 related recall for certain 2013 model year Chevrolet Malibu 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 model year Chevrolet Malibu vehicles that are equipped with the 8-way power front seat feature (AG1/AG2) without the memory seat (A45). The power seat wiring harness may contact the seat frame and chafe the harness. If the harness is chafed enough to expose the wires, a short circuit could occur. This could cause unintended movement of the seat, the seat to become inoperative, sparking under the seat, flickering lights, smoke, or possibly a fire.

573.6(c)(6): On February 28, 2013, a GM North America Product Investigations (PI) Engineer was assigned to investigate a reported seat fire that involved a customer vehicle and confirmed by GM Engineering.

During March and April 2013, the seat from the fire incident vehicle was reviewed with the seat, frame and switch suppliers. Components were transferred to the suppliers for additional analysis.

In connection with the issue, PI requested a read across of available field reports involving electrical issues with Malibu seats. On May 9, 2013, a vehicle was identified with a seat wiring harness short to frame that resulted in a melted circuit breaker, body electrical center and associated wiring.

On May 15, 2013, the seat from a second reported fire was reviewed by GM Engineering. The subject seat was subsequently reviewed with the seat, frame and switch suppliers. Components were transferred to the suppliers for additional analysis. As part of this evaluation and review, circuit breaker thermal damage was identified on the second fire incident vehicle. Several warranty claim verbatims were identified that referenced circuit breaker operation.



From July through September 2013, the circuit breaker supplier was asked to provide all documentation for any changes associated with parts or production. As a result of the investigation it could not be confirmed that the circuit breaker operation contributed to the two Malibu seat fires. Additionally, the subject condition was not found in vehicles that were built with the wiring harness rerouted.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee and on November 5, 2013, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to inspect and, if necessary, repair the wire harness. Dealers are to also inspect for the presence of protective tape and a protective sleeve, and add tape and a protective sleeve to the wire harness as 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 13342.

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

13342  
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<br/>SERIES</u> | <u>MODEL<br/>YEAR</u> | <u>NUMBER<br/>INVOLVED</u> | <u>INCLUSIVE<br/>MANUFACTURING DATES<br/>(FROM) (TO)</u> |            | <u>DESCRIPTIVE INFO. TO<br/>PROPERLY IDENT. VEH.</u> | <u>EST. NO.<br/>W/CONDITION</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Chevrolet   | 1                       | 2013                  | 14,909                     | 10/25/2011   | 06/29/2012 | Malibu   | *                               |
| GM Total:   |                         |                       | 14,909                     |  |            |  |                                 |

\* All involved vehicles will be corrected as necessary.

573.6(c)(2)(iv): Johnson Controls Incorporated  
49200 Halyard Drive  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
734-254-5000

The involved parts are manufactured in the United States.

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