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By Recall Management Division at 4:40 pm, May 22, 2014

May 22, 2014

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

Re: NHTSA Notification Campaign No. 14V-224

Dear Ms. Lewis:

This letter supersedes General Motors' letter of May 13, 2014, and 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 2007 and some 2008 model year (MY) Saturn AURA vehicles. General Motors is expanding this recall to include 2004 – 2008 MY Chevrolet Malibu (GMX380) and 2005 – 2008 MY Pontiac G6 with 4-speed transmissions (MN5); except for vehicles already repaired under safety recall 12106 12V-460 with labor code V2671 or V2672. Specifically, the information submitted pursuant to 49 CFR 573.6(c)(1), 573.6(c)(2)(3)(4), 573.6(c)(6) and 573.6(c)(8) below supersedes information included in General Motors' letter of May 13, 2014.

573.6(c)(1): General Motors Company; Chevrolet, Pontiac and Saturn Brands

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 2004 – 2008 MY Chevrolet Malibu (GMX380) and 2005 – 2008 MY Pontiac G6 with 4-speed transmissions (MN5); except for vehicles already repaired under safety recall 12106 12V-460 with labor code V2671 or V2672 and 2007 and some 2008 MY Saturn AURA vehicles equipped with a 4-speed automatic transmission (ME7/MN5). These vehicles have a condition in which the transmission shift cable may fracture at any time. When the fracture occurs, the driver may not be able to select a different gear or place the transmission in park. If the driver cannot place the vehicle in park, and exits the vehicle without applying the park brake, the vehicle could roll away and a crash could occur without prior warning.

573.6(c)(6): As permitted by the provisions of 49 C.F.R. 573.6(b), and pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. 573.6(c)(6), General Motors now submits the chronology of principal events that were the basis for the determination that the defect related to motor vehicle safety.

On May 20, 2011, NHTSA sent an opening resume to notify GM that it had opened an investigation into 2007 model year (MY) Saturn Aura vehicles related to alleged failure of the transmission shift cable resulting in unintended movement of the vehicle. On July 7, 2011, NHTSA opened preliminary evaluation PE11-021.

GM provided responses to PE11-021 on August 19, 2011, August 26, 2011, and September 2, 2011. GM found a cable failure mode in which a tear to the conduit jacket could allow moisture to corrode the interior steel wires, resulting in degradation of shift cable performance, and eventually, a possible shift cable failure.

The summary of findings was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee on October 21, 2011, and on November 16, 2011, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a special coverage field action for the 2007-2008 MY Saturn Aura vehicles equipped with 4 speed transmissions and built with Leggett & Platt shift cables. Leggett & Platt shift cables were used in production of vehicles through approximately October 31, 2007. Kongsberg Automotive became the production supplier of shift cables beginning about November 1, 2007.

During the PE investigation, GM informed the NHTSA that the same or similar Leggett & Platt cables were used on certain Saturn Aura vehicles, Pontiac G6 and Chevrolet Malibu (GMX380) vehicles. On March 15, 2012, NHTSA sent an Engineering Assessment (EA11-015) request to investigate allegations of failure of the transmission shift cable on certain 2007-2008 MY Saturn Aura, Pontiac G6 and Chevrolet Malibu vehicles. GM provided a response to this EA on May 4, 2012.

During the investigation in response to EA11-015 regarding the MY 2007-2008 Saturn Aura vehicles, 2007-2008 MY Pontiac G6 and 2007-2008 MY Chevrolet Malibu vehicles, GM noticed elevated warranty rates in vehicles built with Kongsberg shift cables. On these vehicles, the tabs on the transmission shift cable end may fracture and separate without warning, resulting in failure of the transmission shift cable and possible unintended vehicle movement.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee on September 7, 2012, and on September 13, 2012, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

The safety recall included all 2008-2010 MY Saturn Aura, Pontiac G6 and Chevrolet Malibu (GMX386 style only) vehicles with 4-speed transmissions (ME7 & MN5) built with Kongsberg shifter cables.

Also included in the safety recall were 2007-2008 MY Saturn Aura, and 2005-2007 MY Pontiac G6 vehicles equipped with 4 speed transmissions (ME7 & ME5) built with Leggett and Platt shift cables which may have been serviced with a Kongsberg cable.

On March 7, 2013, NHTSA sent a second Engineering Assessment to investigate allegations of failure of the transmission shift cable on all 2007-2008 MY Saturn Aura, Chevrolet Malibu (GMX 380 & 386 styles) and Pontiac G6 vehicles. GM provided responses on April 29, 2013, and May 14, 2013.

In February 2014 and April 2014 GM conducted searches of the NHTSA Vehicle Owner Questionnaire (VOQ) database to update GM's information on complaints associated with the transmission shift cable failure on the subject vehicles.

In April 2014 GM also conducted a search for warranty claims and other GM records indicating shift cable failure on the subject vehicles. The data indicated that some vehicle owners were experiencing cable failures after 120,000 miles, outside of the special coverage limitations for the Saturn Aura. The data also indicated some Saturn Aura owners may have been unaware of the special coverage on shift cables for their vehicles. On April 11, 2014, GM and NHTSA had a conference call to discuss the Saturn Aura shift cable failures.

The data update was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee on April 21, 2014, and on April 22, 2014, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall of the Saturn Aura with 4-speed transmissions (ME7/MN5).

From April 22, 2014, to May 9, 2014, GM continued to study the data for the Malibu GMX380 and the G6 4-speed transmission vehicles. The data appeared to indicate the same cable failure mode found with the Saturn Aura 4-speed transmission, although the failure rate is much lower.

The Malibu GMX380 and the G6 4-speed transmission data analysis was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee on May 12, 2014, and on May 19, 2014, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to inspect the shift cable assembly, and install a shift cable clamshell, or replace the shift cable with a new cable kit and new bracket if necessary.

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

Pursuant to 577.11, GM will provide reimbursement to owners according to the plan submitted on May 23, 2013.

573.6(c)(10): General Motors will provide the dealer bulletin and owner letter under separate cover.

573.6(c)(11): General Motors' assigned recall number is 14152.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Latouf", written in a cursive style.

Brian Latouf, Director
Field Product Investigations & Evaluations

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>
Saturn	Z	2007	40,228	04/24/2006	06/27/2007	AURA	*
Saturn	Z	2008	15,953	04/24/2007	10/31/2007	AURA	"
Total:			56,181 – (33 vehicles included in GM's letter dated May 13, 2014, were confirmed to have been repaired under warranty.)				

Additional Population

Chevrolet	Z	2004	96,607	05/16/2003	06/11/2004	Malibu	"
Chevrolet	Z	2004	35,761	06/25/2003	06/11/2004	Malibu Maxx	"
Chevrolet	Z	2005	163,824	03/30/2004	07/29/2005	Malibu	"
Chevrolet	Z	2005	48,581	03/30/2004	07/29/2005	Malibu Maxx	"
Chevrolet	Z	2006	141,688	05/26/2005	06/09/2006	Malibu	"
Chevrolet	Z	2006	29,795	05/26/2005	06/09/2006	Malibu Maxx	"
Chevrolet	Z	2007	113,982	04/03/2006	06/27/2007	Malibu	"
Chevrolet	Z	2007	12,149	04/04/2006	04/05/2007	Malibu Maxx	"
Chevrolet	Z	2008	29,225	05/15/2007	10/05/2007	Malibu	"
Pontiac	Z	2005	62,458	05/26/2004	04/01/2005	G6	"
Pontiac	Z	2006	152,857	01/11/2005	06/06/2006	G6	"
Pontiac	Z	2007	146,988	03/27/2006	06/22/2007	G6	"
Pontiac	Z	2008	41,017	04/11/2007	09/28/2007	G6	"
GM Total:			1,131,113				

* All involved vehicles will be corrected as necessary.

573.6(c)(2)(iv): Leggett & Platt Automotive
Post Office Box 757
1 Leggett Road
Carthage, Missouri 64836
417-358-8131

Kongsberg Automotive
27275 Haggerty Road Suite 610
Novi, MI 48377
248-468-1264

The cables were manufactured in Mexico.

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