OMB Control No.: 2127-0004

## **Part 573 Safety Recall Report**

## 15V-558

**Manufacturer Name:** General Motors LLC

**Submission Date**: SEP 02,2015 **NHTSA Recall No.**: 15V-558 **Manufacturer Recall No.**: 15299



#### **Manufacturer Information:**

Manufacturer Name: General Motors LLC

Address: 30001 VAN DYKE

MAIL CODE 480-210-2V WARREN MI 48090

Company phone: 999

## **Population:**

Number of potentially involved : 0 Estimated percentage with defect : 1

Vehicle	Inform	ation	:
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Vehicle: 2013-2013 Cadillac ATS Sedan

Vehicle Type:
Body Style:

Power Train: NR

Descriptive Information: All 2013 Cadillac ATS Sedan vehicles

Production Dates: APR 23, 2012 - JUN 07, 2013

### **VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Vehicle: 2014-2014 Cadillac ATS Sedan

Vehicle Type : Body Style : Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information: All 2014 Cadillac ATS Sedan vehicles

Production Dates : APR 15, 2013 - JUN 20, 2014

#### **VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Vehicle: 2015-2015 Cadillac ATS Sedan

Vehicle Type : Body Style : Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information: All 2015 Cadillac ATS Sedans

Production Dates: MAY 01, 2014 - JUN 26, 2015

Not sequential VINs

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range					
Begin: NR	End: NR	☐ Not sequential VINs			
Vehicle: 2016-2016 Cadillac ATS Sedan Vehicle Type: Body Style: Power Train: NR Descriptive Information: Certain 2016 ATS Seden Production Dates: FEB 17, 2015 - SEP 02, 2015					

## **Description of Defect:**

Begin: NR

Description of the Defect: General Motors has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety

End: NR

exists in certain 2013-2016 model year ATS sedan vehicles. These vehicles have a coil antenna module that powers the rear defogger system located in the driver side rear pillar. In certain of these vehicles, the coil antenna module may generate significant temperatures if the module is subjected to excessive cycling or continuous operation and the module was manufactured with critically weak

terminal connectivity.

FMVSS 1:NR FMVSS 2:NR

Description of the Safety Risk: Where this condition exists, a fire may develop inside the rear pillar on the driver's side of the vehicle.

Description of the Cause: The manufacturing processes used to produce connections on the printed circuit board within the coil antenna module produced connections that, in rare instances, may result in critically weak terminal connectivity. Further, these vehicles contain "auto on" and/or "continuously on" options for the rear defogger that may cycle the coil antenna module even when the rear window does not require defogging.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur: NR

**VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range** 

### **Supplier Identification:**

## **Component Manufacturer**

Name: Kathrein Automotive Products Co., Ltd

Address: North Block, Building 15

No. 99, Gangtian Road Suzhou FOREIGN STATES 215121

Country: China

# Chronology:

On April 2, 2015, GM opened a formal investigation to review three customer claims citing rear driver side fires in 2013 ATS sedans (2 claims, reported August 2014 and March 2015) and 2015 ATS sedans (1 claim, reported December 2014). As part of this investigation, GM reviewed field data in the US and internationally and discovered no additional reports of rear driver side fire in 2013-2015 ATS vehicles.

Upon analysis of the three subject vehicles, and through testing of the rear defogger's coil antenna module, GM determined that, in some modules, inadequate terminal connectivity may produce high temperatures when the modules are subjected to excessive cycling. In testing, GM was not able to reproduce fire conditions even when modules with poor terminal connectivity were subjected to cycling in a compressed timeframe that exceeds customer use expectations in the field.

On July 20, 2015, GM requested containment of the coil antenna module at the supplier, Kathrein Automotive, and proposed a change in the manufacturing process to enhance terminal connectivity on the printed circuit board in the coil antenna module in forward production.

On July 23, 2015, a Speak Up for Safety report identified Canadian litigation relating to a fourth incident of rear driver side fire, the subject vehicle being a 2014 ATS Sedan. On August 26, 2015, GM's Safety Field Action Decision Authority decided to conduct a safety recall for 2013-2016 ATS sedans and for 2016 ATS-V sedans.

### **Description of Remedy:**

 $Description\ of\ Remedy\ Program: Dealers\ will\ reflash\ the\ Electronic\ Climate\ Control\ (ECC)\ module\ to\ remove$ 

the automatic rear defogger "on" function that occurs as a result of manual or remote start of the vehicle. 2013 models also have a "continuous on" feature (enabled at highway speeds in low temperatures) that will also be disabled. The base functionality of the rear defogger will not be lost. The customer will retain the ability to turn on the function manually from inside the vehicle. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 577.11, GM will reimburse owners for repairs according to the plan submitted on May 20, 2015.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component: Removal of the automatic rear defogger functions

described above will avoid cycling of the coil antenna module when the rear window does not require defogging. Excessive and prolonged cycling can further degrade already weak terminal connectivity and, in doing so, potentially create higher temperatures at the terminals when the defogger is on.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production: Vehicles built after September 2, 2015 will

include the revised ECC software.

#### **Recall Schedule:**

Description of Recall Schedule: Dealers will be notified on September 2, 2015. General Motors will provide

the owner letter mail dates when available.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: SEP 02, 2015 - SEP 02, 2015

Planned Owner Notification Date: NR - NR

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* NR - Not Reported		
The information contained in this rep	oort was submitted pursuant to 49 CFR §573	