



Service Bulletin

INFORMATION

Subject: Information on Vehicles Sitting Outside on Dealer Lots for Extended Periods of Time with Hard Start or Crank/No Start Condition

Models: 2009-2014 GM Cars and Trucks

Attention: The Information in this bulletin applies only to unsold vehicles in dealer inventory and does not apply to customer-owned vehicles that come in for service. **DO NOT** replace the ECM for this condition.

This bulletin has been revised to add the 2012-2014 model years. Please discard Corporate Bulletin Number 09-06-04-015A.

Some service department personnel may experience a hard start or a crank/no start condition with any of the above vehicles if they were delivered in the late spring/summer/early fall time period, and have remained in inventory for an extended period of time through the winter. This condition is more noticeable in regions of the country that experience cold climates. It may be caused by the vehicle's fuel tank containing a summer-blend quantity of fuel in it that was more suitable to the warmer climate that existed when it was delivered. This condition is known as a fuel blend/season mismatch.

In the U.S., summer-blend fuel is federally mandated for use in the June 1st to September 15th time frame. Some states, California for example, have enacted their own seasonal-blend regulations that lengthen this time period. Canada has similar regulations for fuel blends that are adjusted seasonally and geographically. Summer-blend fuel has a different (lower) Reid vapor pressure (RVP) which contributes to it being more ecologically friendly, by reducing the rate of evaporation. RVP is the standard used to measure the vapor pressure of gasoline at 38°C (100°F).

Fuels with a greater RVP evaporate more easily than those with a lower RVP. The main reason that summer-blend gasoline will not work well in the winter is due to its low evaporation rate, which makes an engine difficult to start in cold ambient temperatures. This is the reason that the hard start, no/start condition appears to go away when the vehicle is brought inside the service garage and has had the opportunity to warm up to ambient temperature. However, the condition will repeat itself once the vehicle has been placed back outside on the lot and has cooled back down to a cold ambient temperature.

If the above condition exhibits itself as explained, or is suspected because the vehicle has been in inventory for an extended period of time, then refuel the vehicle with enough fresh gasoline to start and run.

In order to prevent further occurrences, **do not fill the fuel tank** until the vehicle is ready for the **Final Inspection & Preparation** as indicated in the **Pre-Delivery Inspection Form** just prior to delivery of the vehicle to the customer.

If another cause for the crank/no start condition is suspected, then refer to Engine Cranks But Does Not Run in SI.

GM bulletins are intended for use by professional technicians, NOT a "do-it-yourselfer". They are written to inform these technicians of conditions that may occur on some vehicles, or to provide information that could assist in the proper service of a vehicle. Properly trained technicians have the equipment, tools, safety instructions, and know-how to do a job properly and safely. If a condition is described, DO NOT assume that the bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle will have that condition. See your GM dealer for information on whether your vehicle may benefit from the information.



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