



GENERAL MOTORS NORTH AMERICA  
Safety Center

November 10, 2000

00V-371 (2)

Mr. K. N. Weinstein  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.5 as it applies to a determination by General Motors of a safety defect involving certain 2000-2001 W model cars.

573.5(c)(1): Buick and Chevrolet Divisions of the General Motors Corporation.

573.5(c)(2)(3)(4): This information is shown on the attached sheet.

573.5(c)(5): General Motors has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2000-01 Chevrolet Impala, Buick Regal, and Buick Century model vehicles. Some of these vehicles exhibit a condition in which the driver side impact airbag inflator separates from the airbag module during deployment. If the inflator separates from the airbag module, the airbag will not deploy properly during a crash and occupant protection could be reduced. It is also possible that a separated inflator could be propelled downward and could result in injury to a rear seat passenger whose foot is positioned approximately under the inflator module.

573.5(c)(6): The following chronology of principal events led to the determination of a defect:

- March 2000: The issue was first discovered by TRW during a routine Lot Acceptance Test.
- May - August 2000: The inflator supplier reviewed 273,235 real time radiography (X-rays) and found twelve side inflator air bag modules with suspect crimps. These twelve side air bag modules were then traced to the Vehicle Identification Numbers.
- October 11, 2000: FPE report to be prepared for SMC recommendation.
- November 3, 2000: The decision was made to conduct a safety recall.

573.5(c)(8): This information is included in the service procedure of the attached dealer campaign bulletin.

**Product Investigations**

Mail Code: 480-108-304 • 30500 Mound Road • Warren, MI 48090-8055  
Phone: (810) 988-8029 • Fax: (810) 947-2318  
1976.doc

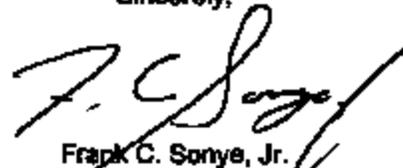


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573.5(c)(9): Draft copies of the owner letter and the dealer bulletin are attached. GM plans to begin this campaign in December 2000. Final copies of the owner letter and dealer bulletin will be forwarded to NHTSA when they are available.

Sincerely,



Frank C. Sonye, Jr.  
Director  
Product Investigations

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Attachments

573.5(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	W	2000	7	2/00	6/00	Impala	100%
Chevrolet	W	2001	1	6/00	6/00	Impala	100%
Bulck	W	2000	3	1/00	3/00	Century	100%
Bulck	W	2001	1	7/00	7/00	Regal	100%
Grand Total:			12				

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001-371 03



# Campaign Bulletin

File In Section: Product Campaigns  
Bulletin No.: 00090  
Date: Month, 2000  
Draft # 1

00V-371 09



## PRODUCT SAFETY CAMPAIGN

**SUBJECT: 00090 - DRIVER SIDE IMPACT AIRBAG INFLATOR**

**MODELS: CERTAIN 2000-01 CHEVROLET IMPALA, BUICK CENTURY AND BUICK REGAL MODEL VEHICLES**

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### CAUTION

**FOR VEHICLES INVOLVED IN THIS CAMPAIGN, DO NOT FOLLOW THE NORMAL PROCEDURE OF DEPLOYING REPLACED AIR BAG MODULES. DEPLOYMENT OF AN AIR BAG MODULE REPLACED UNDER THIS CAMPAIGN COULD CAUSE THE INFLATOR MODULE TO EXPLODE, AND COULD RESULT IN SEVERE INJURY FROM METAL AND PLASTIC DEBRIS.**

**To arrange for the return of inflator modules removed from vehicles involved in this campaign contact TRW via telephone at (###)-##-####. A TRW representative will make arrangements for return of the replaced module. Removed modules should be stored in an area with limited access.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**DRAFT  
A FINAL VERSION OF THIS DRAFT WILL BE USED  
IF THERE IS A DECISION TO CAMPAIGN**

### CONDITION

**General Motors has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2000-01 Chevrolet Impala, Buick Regal, and Buick Century model vehicles. Some of these vehicles exhibit a condition in which the driver side impact airbag inflator separates from the airbag module during deployment. If the inflator separates from the airbag module, the airbag will not deploy properly during a crash and occupant protection could be reduced. It is also possible that a separated inflator could be propelled downward and could result in injury to a rear seat passenger whose foot is positioned approximately under the inflator module.**

**CORRECTION**

Dealers are to replace the side impact airbag module.

**VEHICLES INVOLVED**

Involved are the following Chevrolet Impala, Buick Century and Buick Regal model vehicles equipped with driver side impact airbag (RPO AW6):

Division	Model	Model Year	VIN	Interior Color RPO
Chevrolet	Impala Sedan	2000	2G1WF55K7Y9285919	92I
Chevrolet	Impala Sedan	2000	2G1WF55K6Y9286785	67I
Chevrolet	Impala Sedan	2000	2G1WF55K1Y9299279	27I
Chevrolet	Impala Sedan	2000	2G1WF55E5Y9312836	92I
Chevrolet	Impala Sedan	2000	2G1WF55EXY9318809	92I
Chevrolet	Impala LS Sedan	2000	2G1WH55K3Y9321244	92I
Chevrolet	Impala Sedan	2000	2G1WF55K0Y9380032	27I
Chevrolet	Impala Sedan	2001	2G1WF55E519110570	92I
Buick	Regal LS Sedan	2000	2G4WB55K6Y1247403	14I
Buick	Century Ltd. Sedan	2000	2G4WY55J4Y1280695	14I
Buick	Century Ltd. Sedan	2000	2G4WY55J1Y1291511	52I
Buick	Regal LS Sedan	2001	2G4WB55K811123123	52I

Involved vehicles have been identified by Vehicle Identification Number. Computer listings containing the complete Vehicle Identification Number, customer name and address data have been prepared, and are being furnished to involved dealers with the campaign bulletin. The customer name and address data furnished will enable dealers to follow up with customers involved in this campaign. Any dealer not receiving a computer listing with the campaign bulletin has no involved vehicles currently assigned.

These dealer listings may contain customer names and addresses obtained from Motor Vehicle Registration Records. The use of such motor vehicle registration data for any other purpose is a violation of law in several states/provinces/countries. Accordingly, you are urged to limit the use of this listing to the follow-up necessary to complete this campaign.

**PARTS INFORMATION****CAUTION**

**FOR VEHICLES INVOLVED IN THIS CAMPAIGN, DO NOT FOLLOW THE NORMAL PROCEDURE OF DEPLOYING REPLACED AIR BAG MODULES. DEPLOYMENT OF AN AIR BAG MODULE REPLACED UNDER THIS CAMPAIGN COULD CAUSE THE INFLATOR MODULE TO EXPLODE, AND COULD RESULT IN SEVERE INJURY FROM METAL AND PLASTIC DEBRIS.**

**To arrange for the return of inflator modules removed from vehicles involved in this campaign contact TRW via telephone at (###)-###-####. A TRW representative will make arrangements for return of the replaced module. Removed modules should be stored in an area with limited access.**

**Parts required to complete this campaign are to be obtained from General Motors Service Parts Operations (GMSPO). Please refer to your "Involved vehicles listing" before ordering parts. Normal orders should be placed on a DRO = Daily Replenishment Order. In an emergency situation, parts should be ordered on a CSO = Customer Special Order.**

<b>Part Number</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Quantity/Vehicle</b>
10431740	Module Asm, D/seat side impact infl restraint (92l)	1
10431741	Module Asm, D/seat side impact infl restraint (67l)	1
10431742	Module Asm, D/seat side impact infl restraint (27l)	1
10432936	Module Asm, D/seat side impact infl restraint (14l)	1
10431743	Module Asm, D/seat side impact infl restraint (52l)	1

**Important:** Due to the small number of vehicles involved, dealers are encouraged not to order campaign parts for use as shelf stock.

**SERVICE PROCEDURE**

**IMPORTANT:** For additional information, see the Seats subsection of the Body and Accessories section and the Seat Belts and SIR subsections of the Restraints section of the appropriate service manual

1. **Disable the SIR System.**
  - Turn the ignition to the "OFF" position and remove the key.
  - Remove the driver's side instrument panel access cover and remove the SDM fuse.
  - Remove the left side instrument panel access (insulator) cover, remove the connector position assurance (CPA) and disconnect the yellow 2-way steering wheel air bag module connector near the base of the steering column.
  - Remove the CPA from the driver side impact air bag yellow 2-way connector located under the driver's seat and disconnect the connector.
2. **Move the seat track adjuster to the full rearward and up position.**
3. **Disconnect the side impact air bag wiring retainers from under the seat.**
4. **Move the seat track adjuster to the full forward position.**

5. Remove the seat belt nut from the side of the seat and reposition the belt as necessary.
6. With the seatback upright, disengage the J-strip fastener on the bottom of the seat back cover.
7. With the seatback reclined rearward and from the bottom of the seat back, place your hand up the front side of the seat back cover and release the hook and loop fasteners that attach the seat back cover to the foam pad.
8. Release the seat back cover retainers from the around the side impact air bag module.
9. On vehicles equipped with a seat back heater, disconnect the heater electrical connector and remove from the lower seat cushion.

**IMPORTANT:** Only pull the seatback cover up as far as necessary to access the side air bag retaining nuts. It is not necessary to remove the seatback cover completely.

10. Starting at the bottom of the seat back, pull the seat back cover upwards. The bottom of the cover should be turning inside out as the cover rolls upwards.
11. Remove the rear side seat trim panel retaining screw and remove panel.

**IMPORTANT:** Make note of how the electrical harness is routed and retained in the seat before removing it in the next step.

12. Route the air bag electrical harness out through the lower seat cushion.
13. Remove the side impact air bag retaining nuts and remove air bag module.
14. Install side impact air bag module and retaining nuts. Torque to 10 Nm ( 89 lb. in.).
15. Route the side impact air bag electrical harness through lower seat cushion.
16. Install the rear side seat trim panel and retaining screw. Tighten to 3 Nm ( 27 lb. in.).
17. Reinstall the seat back cover.
18. On vehicles equipped with a seat back heater, reinstall and connect the seat back heater electrical connector.
19. Clip in seat cover retainers around the side impact air bag module.
20. Reconnect the hook and loop fasteners that attach the cover to the foam pad.
21. Reconnect the J-strip fastener at the bottom of the seat back.
22. Install the seat belt to the side of the seat and install nut. Tighten to 42 N.m (31 lb. ft.)
23. Move seat track adjuster to the full forward position.
24. Connect the side impact air bag wiring retainers under the seat.

25. Move the seat track adjuster to the full rearward position.
26. Enable the SIR System.
  - Connect the driver side impact air bag yellow 2-way connector located under the driver's seat and install the CPA.
  - Connect the yellow 2-way steering wheel air bag module connector located near the base of the steering column and install the CPA. Install the left side instrument panel access panel cover (Insulator).
  - Install the SDM fuse and install the driver's side Instrument panel access cover.
  - Turn the ignition switch to the "ON" position and verify that the AIR BAG warning lamp flashes seven (7) times and goes out.
27. Install the GM Campaign Identification Label.

### CAMPAIGN IDENTIFICATION LABEL – For US and IPC

Place a Campaign Identification Label on each vehicle corrected in accordance with the instructions outlined in this Product Campaign Bulletin. Each label provides a space to include the campaign number and the five (5) digit dealer code of the dealer performing the campaign service. This information may be inserted with a typewriter or a ball point pen.

Put the Campaign Identification Label on a clean and dry surface of the radiator core support in an area that will be visible to people servicing the vehicle. When installing the Campaign Identification Label, be sure to pull the tab to allow adhesion of the clear protective covering. Additional Campaign Identification Labels for US dealers can be obtained from Dealer Support Materials by calling 1-888-549-6152 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST). Ask for Item Number 8-1015 when ordering.

Additional Campaign Identification Labels for IPC dealers can be obtained from your Regional Marketing Office

### CAMPAIGN IDENTIFICATION LABEL – For CANADA

Place a Campaign Identification Label on each vehicle corrected in accordance with the instructions outlined in this Product Campaign Bulletin. Each label provides a space to include the campaign number and the five (5) digit dealer code of the dealer performing the campaign service. This information may be inserted with a typewriter or a ball point pen.

Put the Campaign Identification Label on a clean and dry surface of the radiator core support in an area that will be visible to people servicing the vehicle. Additional Campaign Identification Labels for Canadian dealers can be obtained from DGN by calling 1-800-668-5539 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST). Ask for Item Number GMP 91 when ordering.



**CLAIM INFORMATION**

Submit a Product Campaign Claim with the information indicated below:

REPAIR PERFORMED	PART COUNT	PART NO.	PARTS ALLOW	CC-FC	LABOR OP	LABOR HOURS
Replace driver side impact airbag module	1	10431740	**	MA-96	V0804	* 0.6
Add: For vehicles equipped with heated seat back						0.1

- \* For Campaign Administrative Allowance, add 0.1 hours to the "Labor Hours".
- \*\* The "Parts Allowance" should be the sum total of the current GMSP0 Dealer net price plus applicable Mark-Up or Landed Cost Mark-Up (for IPC) for parts needed to complete the repair.

Refer to the General Motors WINS Claims Processing Manual for details on Product Campaign Claim Submission.

**CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION**

Customers will be notified of this campaign on their vehicles by General Motors (see copy of customer letter included with this bulletin).

**DEALER CAMPAIGN RESPONSIBILITY**

The US National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act provides that each vehicle that is subject to a recall campaign of this type must be adequately repaired within a reasonable time after the customer has tendered it for repair. A failure to repair within sixty days after tender of a vehicle is prima facie evidence of failure to repair within a reasonable time. If the condition is not adequately repaired within a reasonable time, the customer may be entitled to an identical or reasonably equivalent vehicle at no charge or to a refund of the purchase price less a reasonable allowance for depreciation. To avoid having to provide these burdensome remedies, every effort must be made to promptly schedule an appointment with each customer and to repair their vehicle as soon as possible. In the recall campaign notification letters, customers are told how to contact the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration if the campaign is not completed within a reasonable time.

**DEALER CAMPAIGN RESPONSIBILITY**

All unsold new vehicles in dealers' possession and subject to this campaign must be held and inspected/repared per the service procedure of this campaign bulletin before customers take possession of these vehicles.

Dealers are to service all vehicles subject to this campaign at no charge to customers, regardless of mileage, age of vehicle, or ownership, from this time forward.

Customers who have recently purchased vehicles sold from your vehicle inventory, and for which there is no customer information indicated on the dealer listing, are to be contacted by the dealer. Arrangements are to be made to make the required correction according to the instructions contained in this bulletin. This could be done by mailing to such customers, a copy of the customer letter accompanying this bulletin. Campaign follow-up cards should not be used for this purpose, since the customer may not as yet have received the notification letter.

In summary, whenever a vehicle subject to this campaign enters your vehicle inventory, or is in your dealership for service in the future, you must take the steps necessary to be sure the campaign correction has been made before selling or releasing the vehicle.

GM bulletins are intended to give the professional technician, NOT a "do-it-yourselfer", the information to correct conditions 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 tools, equipment, 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 dealer/retailer for information on whether your vehicle may benefit from the information.



**We Support  
Voluntary Technician  
Certification**

&lt;Month Of Mailing&gt;, 2000

Dear General Motors Customer:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

**Reason For This Recall:** General Motors has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2000-01 Chevrolet Impala, Buick Regal, and Buick Century model vehicles. Some of these vehicles exhibit a condition in which the driver side impact airbag inflator separates from the airbag module during deployment. If the inflator separates from the airbag module, the airbag will not deploy properly during a crash and occupant protection could be reduced. It is also possible that a separated inflator could be propelled downward and could result in injury to a rear seat passenger whose foot is positioned approximately under the inflator module.

**What Will Be Done:** Your dealer will replace the side impact airbag module. This service will be performed for you at no charge.

**How Long Will The Repair Take?** The length of time required to perform this service correction is approximately 45 minutes. Additional time may be required to schedule and process your vehicle. If your dealer has a large number of vehicles awaiting service, this additional time may be significant. Please ask your dealer if you wish to know how much additional time will be needed to schedule, process and repair your vehicle.

**Contacting Your Dealer:** Please contact your dealer as soon as possible to arrange a service date. Parts are available and instructions for making this correction have been sent to your dealer. Your dealer is best equipped to obtain parts and provide services to correct your vehicle as promptly as possible. Should your dealer be unable to schedule a service date within a reasonable time, you should contact the appropriate Customer Assistance Center at the listed number below:

Division	Number	Deaf, Hearing Impaired or Speech Impaired *
Buick	1-800-521-7300	1-800-832-8425
Chevrolet	1-800-222-1020	1-800-833-2438

\* Utilizes Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf/Text Telephones (TDD/TTY)

If, after contacting the appropriate customer assistance center, you are still not satisfied that we have done our best to remedy this condition without charge and within a reasonable time, you may wish to write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, DC 20590 or call 1-888-327-4236.

**Customer Reply Card:** The attached customer reply card identifies your vehicle. Presentation of this card to your dealer will assist in making the necessary correction in the shortest possible time. If you no longer own this vehicle, please let us know by completing the attached and mailing it in the postage paid envelope.

We are sorry to cause you this inconvenience; however, we have taken this action in the interest of your safety and continued satisfaction with our products.

General Motors Corporation

Enclosure