

13V-024
(3 pages)

January 22, 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. These vehicles may have been built with one or more rear suspension bolts that were not tightened to the specified torque. The effect will vary depending on which bolt is involved and the progression of the condition. Initially, noise and a minor handling effect may be noticed. As the condition progresses, sudden changes in the vehicle handling could occur and the driver may not be able to control the vehicle, particularly at higher speeds, which could result in a crash without prior warning.

573.6(c)(6): The issue was reported by a captured test fleet driver on December 6, 2012. A report was entered into the PRTS (Problem Resolution Tracking System) which initiated a preliminary investigation at the plant and engineering. It was determined that current product was not involved. An audit of company vehicles was conducted and found no additional vehicles with this condition.

On January 11, 2013, a GMNA Product Investigations Engineer was assigned to investigate the issue and enter it into the FPE process. It was determined that the involved vehicles were built with rear cradle assemblies that were assembled with manual tooling until July 18, 2012. The manual tooling was not error proofed to ensure correct torque of all bolts.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee for review, and on January 18, 2013, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a safety recall.



573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to check the rear suspension bolts' torque and retighten to the proper torque specifications, if necessary. In some cases, rear alignment adjustment may be required.

GM sent the dealer bulletin on January 18, 2013 and began the owner letter mailing on January 21, 2013.

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.

Sincerely,



M. Carmen Benavides, Director
Product Investigations and Safety Regulations

13008
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>
Chevrolet	1	2013	386	12/06/2011	07/25/2012	Malibu	*
Estimated GM Total:			386				

* All involved vehicles will be corrected as necessary.

573.6(c)(2)(iv): Android Industries
2155 Executive Hills Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
248-732-0000
The rear cradle assembly is assembled in Detroit, MI 48238

13008