

October 3, 2011

Mr. Claude Harris
Acting 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

11V-491
(3 Pages)

Dear Mr. Harris:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 as it applies to a determination by General Motors of a noncompliance involving certain 2011-2012 model year Chevrolet Corvette Coupe 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 certain 2011-2012 model year Chevrolet Corvette Coupe vehicles fail to conform to Federal/Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 206, Door Locks and Door Retention Components, for rear door retention in a crash. The rear hatch hinges on these vehicles may not meet the load requirements specified in the Safety Standard, which may allow the rear hatch to separate from the vehicle in a crash.

573.6(c)(7): On August 24, 2011, Dura Automotive Systems, Inc. tested production Corvette rear hatch hinges in order to confirm compliance to a future Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) regulation. During the transverse portion of these tests, the hinges separated below the required load specified in FMVSS 206.

On September 6, 2011, a GM Product Investigations engineer was assigned to investigate the issue. On September 7, 2011, a stop shipment was put in place at the assembly plant to contain potential suspect material.

The investigation identified a FMVSS 206 compliance test that was completed on December 14, 2010, that demonstrated compliance to FMVSS 206. The tested hinge was made from heated steel coil #9155. GM's investigation focused on the hinges manufactured post December 14, 2010, and post coil #9155.



The investigation determined that the hinge material used in the test on August 24, 2011, was manufactured on July 25, 2011, from heated steel coil # 2500. It was also determined that the same coil #2500, was used to manufacture two other lots of hatch sides of hinges manufactured on December 23, 2010, and February 26, 2011. On September 13, 2011, and September 21, 2011, hinges from the respective lots were tested in accordance with the transverse portion of S5.1.2 of FMVSS 206. Both hinges separated below the required load specified in FMVSS 206. Further investigation found that vehicles manufactured from January 24, 2011, through September 8, 2011, used hinges from this same coil # 2500. Vehicles built before January 24, 2011, had hinges manufactured from coil # 9155.

On September 7, 2011, GM performed the transverse portion of FMVSS 206 on two sets of hinges manufactured from the heated steel coil # 2601 and met the requirements. GM began building vehicles on September 9, 2011, with hinges manufactured from coil #2601.

The issue was presented to the Field Performance Evaluation Review Committee and on September 28, 2011, the Executive Field Action Decision Committee decided to conduct a noncompliance recall.

573.6(c)(8): Dealers are to replace both rear hatch hinges.

GM sent the dealer bulletin on September 29, 2011, and anticipates mailing owner letters on October 7, 2011.

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 & Safety Regulations

11258
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	Y	2011	4,064	1/24/2011	06/16/2011	Corvette Coupe	*
Chevrolet	Y	2012	1,691	2/22/2011	09/01/2011	Corvette Coupe	"
	GM Total:		5,755				

* All involved vehicles will be corrected as necessary.

573.6(c)(2)(iv): The supplier of the rear hatch hinge is:

Milan Metal Systems, LLC
GM Duns #613469100
555 Platt Road
Milan, MI 48160
Bob McHugh - 248-444-4703

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