

**Part 573 Safety Recall Report****15V-201****Manufacturer Name :** General Motors LLC**Submission Date :** FEB 25, 2016**NHTSA Recall No. :** 15V-201**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 14574**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : General Motors LLC

Address : 30001 VAN DYKE

MAIL CODE 480-210-2V WARREN MI 48090

Company phone : 5961733

**Population :**

Number of potentially involved : 330,742

Estimated percentage with defect : 100

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle : 2004-2004 Buick Regal

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Certain 2004 Buick Regal vehicles

Production Dates : APR 09, 2003 - JUN 01, 2004

**VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Vehicle : 2004-2004 Pontiac Grand Prix

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Certain 2004 Pontiac Grand Prix vehicles

Production Dates : JAN 06, 2003 - JUN 25, 2004

**VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Vehicle : 2004-2004 Chevrolet Monte Carlo

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Certain 2004 Chevrolet Monte Carlo vehicles

Production Dates : APR 07, 2003 - JUN 23, 2004

**VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs

Vehicle : 2004-2004 Chevrolet Impala

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Certain 2004 Chevrolet Impala vehicles

Production Dates : APR 08, 2003 - JUN 23, 2004

**VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range**

Begin : NR

End : NR

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : General Motors has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2004 model year Buick Regal, Chevrolet Impala, and Chevrolet Monte Carlo vehicles equipped with a 3.8L V6 engine (Regular Production Option (RPO) L36 or L67) and certain Pontiac Grand Prix vehicles equipped with a 3.8L V6 engine (RPO L26 or L32) . Certain of these vehicles have a condition in which drops of engine oil may be deposited on the exhaust manifold through hard braking.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If this condition occurs, and if a hot surface ignition source is present, an engine compartment fire could occur.

Description of the Cause : Aging and wear to the valve cover gasket can allow oil to seep past the gasket and onto the exhaust manifold during hard braking. If the exhaust manifold's hot surface serves as an ignition source, a flame can develop from the seeped oil, igniting the plastic spark plug wire retainer. The resultant smoldering can propagate flames to other engine components.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

**Chronology :**

General Motors previously issued recall numbers 08V-118 (March 12, 2008) and 09V-116 (April 8, 2009) to address potential engine compartment fires in vehicles built using certain valve cover gaskets. During the course of investigating those recalls, it was determined that production began using a sturdier gasket material in association with the model year change from 2003 to 2004. Accordingly, the execution of recalls 08V-118 and 09V-116 covered only 2003 and previous model year vehicles.

An investigation was initiated on August 20, 2014 to determine the cause of underhood fire complaints in certain 2004 vehicles. It was determined that that a number of early model year 2004 Buick Regal, Chevrolet Impala, and Chevrolet Monte Carlo were built with the earlier generation gaskets. This vehicle population was not previously included in recalls 08V-118 and 09V-116. On March 27, 2015, GM's Safety Field Action Decision Authority decided to conduct a safety recall of certain year 2004 Buick Regal, Chevrolet Impala, and Chevrolet Monte Carlo vehicles.

On or about May 1, 2015, a parts usage analysis was completed indicating the same gasket and similar environment exists on certain 2004 Pontiac Grand Prix vehicles. On May 12, 2015, GM's Safety Field Action Decision Authority decided to expand the 14574 safety recall to include these vehicles.

On October 14, 2015, GM's Safety Field Action Decision Authority decided to conduct safety recall 15757 (NHTSA # 15V-701) that included both previously recalled vehicles and other identified vehicles not subject to the prior recalls. At the request of the agency, as communicated on October 29, 2015, vehicles not subject to the prior recalls will be addressed through an expansion of 15V-201.

**Description of Remedy :**

Description of Remedy Program : Dealers will replace the engine's front valve cover and front-valve-cover gasket with new parts of an improved design. The engine's plastic "beauty" cover and plastic oil-fill-tube extension will be removed, if they have not been already. Pursuant to 577.11, General Motors will provide reimbursement to owners for repairs according to the plan submitted on May 23, 2013.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The replacement wire retention system is designed in a way such that it does not collect oil that may have seeped through an aged gasket and is located in a way such that it is not in close proximity to the potential ignition source. Replacement gaskets (for RPO L32 or L67 engines) are made of a material with a higher durometer than the original gaskets.

When a remedy for 15757/15V-701 is released, the remedy for 14574/15V-201 will be revised accordingly.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Gaskets with a higher durometer were implemented into production July 1, 2003.

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : Owner letters pertaining to the March 27, 2015 decision were mailed from April 24 to April 27, 2015. Dealers were notified on April 24, 2015. General Motors will provide the dealer notification and owner letter mail dates pertaining to the May 12, 2015 decision when available.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

\* NR - Not Reported