

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

23V-334

Manufacturer Name : General Motors, LLC**Submission Date :** MAY 10, 2023**NHTSA Recall No. :** 23V-334**Manufacturer Recall No. :** N232404980**Manufacturer Information :****Population :**

Manufacturer Name : General Motors, LLC

Number of potentially involved : 994,763

 Address : 29427 Louis Chevrolet Road
 MAIL CODE 480-210-2V WARREN MI
 48093

Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Company phone : 586-596-1733

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2014-2017 Buick Enclave

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Manufacturing records were used to identify vehicles that may have received a suspect airbag inflator.

Vehicles that were included in recalls 21V782 or 22V246 are not included in this recall.

There are 244,304 Buick Enclave vehicles affected by this recall.

Production Dates : MAR 26, 2013 - MAY 12, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2014-2017 Chevrolet Traverse

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Manufacturing records were used to identify vehicles that may have received a suspect airbag inflator.

Vehicles that were included in recalls 21V782 or 22V246 are not included in this recall.

There are 457,316 Chevrolet Traverse vehicles affected by this recall.

Production Dates : MAR 26, 2014 - MAY 12, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2014-2017 GMC Acadia

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Manufacturing records were used to identify vehicles that may have received a suspect airbag inflator.

Vehicles that were included in recall 22V246 are not included in this recall.

There are 293,143 GMC Acadia vehicles affected by this recall.

Production Dates : MAR 26, 2014 - MAR 29, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : General Motors has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2014-2017 model year Buick Enclave, Chevrolet Traverse, and GMC Acadia vehicles. In these vehicles, the front-driver airbag inflator may contain a supplier manufacturing defect that may result in inflator rupture during deployment.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : An inflator rupture may cause metal fragments to pass through the airbag and into the vehicle interior, which may result in injury or death to vehicle occupants.

Description of the Cause : GM is continuing its investigation into this incident.

Identification of Any Warning NR
that can Occur :

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : AIRBAG ASM-STRG WHL

Component Description : Driver Front Airbag Module

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : ARC Automotive Inc.

Address : 1729 Midpark Rd D.
Knoxville Tennessee 37921

Country : United States

Chronology :

On March 24, 2023, GM received an allegation that a 2017 model year Chevrolet Traverse was in a crash and that the front-driver airbag inflator ruptured during deployment.

GM and NHTSA were provided an opportunity to inspect the vehicle on April 25, 2023. The inspection confirmed that the front driver airbag inflator in the subject vehicle ruptured during deployment. GM is aware of two prior ruptures (allegations received: September 2, 2021 and February 18, 2022) of ARC-manufactured airbag inflators in 2015 model year Chevrolet Traverse vehicles, and GM conducted NHTSA Recalls 21V782 and 22V246 on the inflator production lots involved in these incidents. All three rupture events in Chevrolet Traverse vehicles involved the same inflator variant (MC).

In 2022, to assist GM in its investigation, GM retained an independent third-party engineering firm with nationally respected engineering expertise in airbag-inflator performance. The reason for these inflator ruptures remains unknown. GM and the independent engineering firm are continuing to investigate these rupture incidents and GM has kept NHTSA informed of the progress of this investigation as the work proceeds.

On May 7, 2023, and out of an abundance of caution, GM's Safety and Field Action Decision Authority decided to expand Recalls 21V782 and 22V246 to all front-driver airbag modules containing an ARC "MC" variant inflator that were installed as original equipment in 2014-2017 model year Chevrolet Traverse, Buick Enclave and GMC

Acadia vehicles.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Dealers will replace the front-driver airbag module. Pursuant to 577.11, General Motors does not plan to provide notice about reimbursement to owners because owners would not have been aware of the issue prior to this recall.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The remedy component does not contain an inflator that was manufactured in the suspect time period.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers will be notified on May 10, 2023. Interim owner notification is estimated to begin on June 25, 2023. GM will provide an estimate for owner notification of an available remedy when one is available.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAY 10, 2023 - MAY 10, 2023

Planned Owner Notification Date : JUN 26, 2023 - JUN 26, 2023

* NR - Not Reported



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

AUG - 9 2016

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Robert Zimbrich
Director, Inflator Products
ARC Automotive, Inc.
1729 Midpark Road
Knoxville, Tennessee 37921

NEF-101sly
EA16-003

Dear Mr. Zimbrich:

This letter is to inform you that the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has upgraded PE15-027 to Engineering Analysis (EA) 16-003 to further investigate allegations of air bag inflator ruptures involving driver air bag inflators manufactured by ARC Automotive, Inc. (ARC). To assist us at this stage of the investigation, we are requesting certain information concerning all toroidal shaped frontal air bag inflators manufactured by ARC that were subsequently supplied to a Tier I or other air bag system manufacturer, for incorporation in their completed air bag modules. ODI is requesting this information for the inflators produced during the time frame from start of production (SOP) up to the date of this letter. This is an interim request and further requests will be made at a later date.

Unless otherwise stated in the text, the following definitions apply to this information request:

- **Subject component**: Hybrid toroidal shaped frontal air bag inflators manufactured by ARC that were subsequently supplied to a Tier I or other manufacturers of air bag modules to be installed in a passenger vehicle.
- **Licensing Agreement**: Any contract between ARC and another party granting said party permission to manufacture and/or sell air bag inflators utilizing ARC's design and technical information.
- **ARC**: ARC Automotive, Inc., all of its past and present officers and employees, whether assigned to its principal offices or any other locations, including all of its divisions, subsidiaries (whether or not incorporated) and affiliated enterprises and all of their headquarters, regional, zone and other offices and its employees, and all agents, contractors, consultants, attorneys and law firms and other persons engaged directly or indirectly (e.g., employee of a consultant) by or under the control of ARC (including

all business units and persons previously referred to), who are or, in or after 1995, were involved in any way with any of the following related to the subject component:

- a. Design, engineering, analysis, modification or production (e.g., quality control);
 - b. Testing, assessment or evaluation;
 - c. Consideration, or recognition of potential or actual defects, reporting, record-keeping, and information management, (i.e., complaints, field reports, warranty information, part sales), analysis claims or lawsuits; or
 - d. Communication to, from or intended for customer representatives, or other field locations, including but not limited to people who have the capacity to obtain information from customers.
- **Document:** “Document(s)” is used in the broadest sense of the word and shall mean all original written, printed, typed, recorded, or graphic matter whatsoever, however produced or reproduced, of every kind, nature, and description, and all non-identical copies of both sides thereof, including, but not limited to, papers, letters, memoranda, correspondence, communications, electronic mail (e-mail) messages (existing in hard copy and/or in electronic storage), faxes, mailgrams, telegrams, cables, telex messages, notes, annotations, working papers, drafts, minutes, records, audio and video recordings, data, databases, other information bases, summaries, charts, tables, graphics, other visual displays, photographs, statements, interviews, opinions, reports, newspaper articles, studies, analyses, evaluations, interpretations, contracts, agreements, jottings, agendas, bulletins, notices, announcements, instructions, blueprints, drawings, as-builts, changes, manuals, publications, work schedules, journals, statistical data, desk, portable and computer calendars, appointment books, diaries, travel reports, lists, tabulations, computer printouts, data processing program libraries, data processing inputs and outputs, microfilms, microfiches, statements for services, resolutions, financial statements, governmental records, business records, personnel records, work orders, pleadings, discovery in any form, affidavits, motions, responses to discovery, all transcripts, administrative filings and all mechanical, magnetic, photographic and electronic records or recordings of any kind, including any storage media associated with computers, including, but not limited to, information on hard drives, floppy disks, backup tapes, and zip drives, electronic communications, including but not limited to, the Internet and shall include any drafts or revisions pertaining to any of the foregoing, all other things similar to any of the foregoing, however denominated by ARC, any other data compilations from which information can be obtained, translated if necessary, into a usable form and any other documents. For purposes of this request, any document which contains any note, comment, addition, deletion, insertion, annotation, or otherwise comprises a non-identical copy of another document shall be treated as a separate document subject to production. In all cases where original and any non-identical copies are not available, “document(s)” also means any identical copies of the original and all non-identical copies thereof. Any document, record, graph, chart, film or photograph originally produced in color must be provided in color. Furnish all documents whether verified by ARC or not. **If a document is not in the English language, provide both the original document and an English translation of the document.**

- **Other Terms:** To the extent that they are used in these information requests, the terms “claim,” “consumer complaint,” “dealer field report,” “field report,” “fleet,” “good will,” “make,” “model,” “model year,” “notice,” “property damage,” “property damage claim,” “rollover,” “type,” “warranty,” “warranty adjustment,” and “warranty claim,” whether used in singular or in plural form, have the same meaning as found in 49 CFR 579.4.

In order for my staff to conduct their evaluation, certain information is required. Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, please provide numbered responses to the following information requests. Insofar as ARC has previously provided a document to ODI, ARC may produce it again or identify the document, the document submission to ODI in which it was included and the precise location in that submission where the document is located. When documents are produced, the documents shall be produced in an identified, organized manner that corresponds with the organization of this information request letter (including all individual requests and subparts). When documents are produced and the documents would not, standing alone, be self-explanatory, the production of documents shall be supplemented and accompanied by explanation.

Please repeat the applicable request verbatim above the response. After ARC’s response to the request, identify the source of the information and indicate the last date the information was gathered.

1. Identify all Tier I companies and/or air bag module manufacturers to whom ARC provided the subject component for the time period from the start of production (SOP) up to the date of this letter. Separately, for each Tier I or air bag manufacturer (i.e., customer), provide the following additional information in a tabular format:
 - a. Customer name (i.e. Key Safety Systems);
 - b. Customer contact information including the name(s) and title(s) of a person(s) familiar with the subject components, address, phone number(s), email address(es) and any other pertinent information;
 - c. Customer part number;
 - d. ARC part number;
 - e. Manufacturing location (including assembly line if pertinent);
 - f. Address the parts were shipped to;
 - g. Any information ARC possesses regarding the final stage user/OEM of the part number;
 - h. Any information ARC possesses regarding the market (US or foreign) the part was intended for; and,
 - i. Total number of parts provided (for the manufacturing location in item e) by year and month of manufacture.
2. Identify all companies ARC has ever entered into a licensing agreement with for the production and/or sale of the subject components. For each licensing agreement for the production and/or sale of air bag inflators entered into by ARC the following information is to be provided:

- a. The name of the company party to the agreement;
- b. Company contact information including the name(s) and title(s) of a person(s) familiar with the licensing agreement, address, phone number(s), email address(es) and any other pertinent information;
- c. The terms of the licensing agreement, including but not limited to:
 - i. Inflator types/design(s) covered under the agreement
 - ii. All permissions granted under the agreement;
 - iii. All restrictions imposed under the agreement;
 - iv. Any rights retained by ARC (i.e. monitoring, quality control)
 - v. Length of the agreement; and
 - vi. Any other information necessary to accurately and completely convey the parameters of the agreement.

Legal Authority for This Request

This letter is being sent to ARC pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49 and to request reports and the production of things. It constitutes a new request for information.

Civil Penalties

ARC's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject ARC to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163. (Other remedies and sanctions are available as well.) The Vehicle Safety Act, as amended, 49 U.S.C. § 30165(a)(3), provides for civil penalties of up to \$21,000 per violation per day, with a maximum of \$105,000,000 for a related series of daily violations, for failing or refusing to perform an act required under 49 U.S.C. § 30166. *See* 49 CFR 578.6 (as amended by Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (the "FAST Act"), Pub. L. 114-21, § 24110(a)(2), 129 Stat. 1312 (Dec. 4, 2015)). This includes failing to respond completely, accurately, and in a timely manner to ODI information requests.

If ARC cannot respond to any specific request or subpart(s) thereof, please state the reason why it is unable to do so. If on the basis of attorney-client, attorney work product, or other privilege, ARC does not submit one or more requested documents or items of information in response to this information request, ARC must provide a privilege log identifying each document or item withheld, and stating the date, subject or title, the name and position of the person(s) from, and the person(s) to whom it was sent, and the name and position of any other recipient (to include all carbon copies or blind carbon copies), the nature of that information or material, and the basis for the claim of privilege and why that privilege applies.

Confidential Business Information

All business confidential information must be submitted directly to the Office of Chief Counsel as described in the following paragraph and should not be sent to this office. In addition, do not submit any business confidential information in the body of the letter submitted

to this office. Please refer to EA16-003 in ARC's response to this letter and in any confidentiality request submitted to the Office of Chief Counsel.

If ARC claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, ARC must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended, to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-100), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room W41-227, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590. ARC is required to **submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information and/or one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted or blueprints**. Please remember that the phrase "ENTIRE PAGE CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION" or "CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS INFORMATION" (as appropriate) must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential, and the information must be clearly identified in accordance with 49 CFR 512.6. If you submit a request for confidentiality for all or part of your response to this IR, that is in an electronic format (e.g., CD-ROM), your request and associated submission must conform to the new requirements in NHTSA's Confidential Business Information Rule regarding submissions in electronic formats. *See* 49 CFR 512.6(c) (as amended by 72 Fed. Reg. 59434 (October 19, 2007)).

If you have any questions regarding submission of a request for confidential treatment, contact Otto Matheke, Senior Attorney, Office of Chief Counsel at otto.matheke@dot.gov or (202) 366-5253.

Due Date

ARC's response to this letter, in duplicate, together with a copy of any confidentiality request, must be submitted to this office by **September 8, 2016**. ARC's response must include all non-confidential attachments and a redacted version of all documents that contain confidential information. If ARC finds that it is unable to provide all of the information requested within the time allotted, ARC must request an extension from Scott Yon at 202-366-0139 no later than five business days before the response due date. If ARC is unable to provide all of the information requested by the original deadline, it must submit a partial response by the original deadline with whatever information ARC then has available, even if an extension has been granted.

Please send email notification to Sharon Yukevich (sharon.yukevich@dot.gov) and to ODI_IRresponse@dot.gov when ARC send its response to this office and indicate whether there is confidential information as part of ARC's response.

If you have any technical questions concerning this matter, please contact Sharon Yukevich at (202) 366-4925.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Yon", followed by the date "8/5/14". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Scott Yon
Chief, Vehicle Integrity Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement