

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 18V-342

**Manufacturer Name :** General Motors LLC**Submission Date :** MAY 27, 2018**NHTSA Recall No. :** 18V-342**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 18178**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : General Motors LLC

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

Company phone : 5961733

**Population :**

Number of potentially involved : 71

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2018 Chevrolet Sonic

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : GM determined the population by using manufacturing records to identify the vehicles that could have been produced with the defect. Vehicles produced after 11/22/2018 were manufactured with seat-back frames that were produced after the supplier corrected its welding fixture.

Production Dates : OCT 31, 2017 - NOV 22, 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 2018 model year Chevrolet Sonic vehicles. A joint in the driver's seat-back frame may not have been properly welded during the manufacturing process, reducing the strength of the seat-back frame.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the vehicle is involved in a rear-impact crash and the weld is fractured or fractures during the crash event, the strength of the driver's seat back will be reduced, increasing the risk of injury to the driver.

Description of the Cause : The seat-frame supplier failed to properly weld the joint connecting the seat-back frame to the bracket that attaches it to the seat-cushion frame during assembly.

Identification of Any Warning : The driver may detect unusual play or movement in the seat back, which can occur when the weld is fractured and the seat-back frame has partially

that can Occur : separated from the bracket that attaches it to the seat-cushion frame.

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : Fisher Dynamics  
Address : 33000 Fiher Dr.  
St Clair shores MICHIGAN 48082  
Country : United States

## Chronology :

On January 26, 2018, a GM quality engineer inspecting returned warranty components identified a fractured weld on a driver's seat-back frame recovered from a 2018 model year Chevrolet Sonic. After discovering the fractured weld, GM contacted Fisher Dynamics, the seat-back frame supplier, which contained and inspected the components at its facility. In addition, GM's assembly facility at Lake Orion, Michigan sent its stock of seat-back frames to Fisher for inspection. Fisher found no additional fractured or improper welds during its inspections, but did identify the root cause of the fractured weld: a welding fixture in its assembly facility that, for a two-hour period on October 10, 2017, was improperly adjusted during routine maintenance. Seat-back frames produced during this period were incorporated into certain vehicles built between October 31, 2017 and November 22, 2017.

After conducting a preliminary engineering assessment of the broken weld, GM opened a formal product investigation on March 6, 2018. GM's investigation identified no additional warranty claims or other field reports involving a potentially broken weld. Using CAE testing, GM determined that an improper weld could weaken over time and reduce the strength of the driver's seat back during a rear-impact crash. Based on this testing, on May 17, 2018, GM's Safety Field Action Decision Authority decided to conduct a safety recall.

## Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : Dealers will replace the driver's seat back following General Motors approved service parts and procedures. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 573.13(d) (1), all covered vehicles are under warranty so reimbursement is not offered.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The seat-back frame is properly welded to the bracket that attaches it to the seat-cushion frame.

Recalled Component Name: Frame, F/Seat BK  
Recalled Component Description: Diver's side seat back frame  
Recalled Component Part Number: 42384909

Recalled Component Country of Origin: U.S.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Vehicles produced after November 22, 2017 were produced with seat-back frames that Fisher manufactured after correcting the welding fixture in question.

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : General Motors will provide dealer bulletin and owner letter notification dates when available.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAY 24, 2018 - MAY 24, 2018

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

\* NR - Not Reported