

**To:** Magno, Gregory (NHTSA) [REDACTED]  
**From:** Butterfield, Jessica (NHTSA)  
**Sent on behalf of:** Butterfield, Jessica (NHTSA)  
**Sent:** Tue 7/21/2009 8:27:18 PM  
**Importance:** Low  
**Sensitivity:** None  
**Subject:** RE: Cobalt IE ?  
**Categories:** urn:content-classes:message

Thanks! I'll take a closer look, but I know that the fatal I'm reviewing and some other complaints have off road, multiple event aspects.

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**From:** Magno, Gregory (NHTSA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2009 4:20 PM  
**To:** Butterfield, Jessica (NHTSA)  
**Subject:** RE: Cobalt IE ?

Jessica,

That IE tool two years to develop and even included a sitdown w/ GM. It was ultimately declined because the fatals we had involved off-road relatively long duration events and unbelted occupants.

After a certain length of time "awake", the EDR has to reset itself. We believe that that may have been part of the problem.

More significantly, we have been told that GM's algorithms are relatively "tight", refusing to deploy the airbag unless there it is certain that an airbag deployment would reduce injury chances. I have been given to understand that the system rules an unbelted passenger as out of position. A concern is that if that passenger has moved forward into the deployment zone, the airbag can rise up underneath the chin, imposing significant head / neck injuries.

The Panel told us to go back and look for allegations of above-threshold frontal nondeployments where the impacts were relatively clean and were on-road.

A tall order.

Greg

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**From:** Butterfield, Jessica (NHTSA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 21, 2009 4:14 PM  
**To:** Magno, Gregory (NHTSA)  
**Subject:** Cobalt IE ?

Greg-

Do you happen to recall IE07-080 (Donovan/2003-2006 Chevy Cobalt/ AB non-deploy)? I'm finishing up a fatal review and have found 15 more complaints of non-deployment since the IE and I noted there was no PE. Some seem to have multiple impacts, circumstances why the AB might non deploy but I'd have to do some additional work to get details. I wanted to see if you remembered the office reasoning in the panel and if I should be looking more closely/differently than the past.

Thanks!!

Jessica