

Impala Designed for Safety, Says GM – NHTSA Agrees

The 2014 Chevrolet Impala has received the highest possible five-star Overall Vehicle Score for safety as part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's New Car Assessment Program.

"Safety is a key consideration for all car buyers, and Impala sets a new benchmark for Chevrolet's flagship sedan," said Gay Kent, GM general director of Vehicle Safety and Crashworthiness. "The 2014 Chevrolet Impala is designed to provide excellent crash safety, and offers customers several safety technologies not previously available in Chevrolets."

The redesigned, full-size sedan presents one of the most comprehensive collections of standard and available safety features in the segment, Kent said. It employs advanced technologies – including radar – to help avoid crashes. Visual and audible alerts, depending on the alert feature, help drivers identify potential crash situations and even intervene when a crash threat appears more imminent.

The alerts are designed to identify potential threats with sufficient warning to give the driver time to react and make changes, Kent said.

The available safety features and benefits include:

- Full-speed-range adaptive cruise control – Radar technology senses traffic in front of the Impala to adjust vehicle speed, including stopping the vehicle in heavy traffic and accelerating again. It is the first application in a Chevrolet;
- Crash imminent braking – Another Chevy first: Radar technology detects a possible crash threat and alerts the driver. If the driver does not appear to react quickly enough or doesn't react

at all, this feature intervenes to apply the brakes in an effort to avoid the crash;

- Forward collision alert – Camera technology detects a possible crash threat and alerts the driver, giving him or her time to stop and/or change course;
- Lane departure warning – A camera-based lane detection system warns the driver of unsignaled lane changes. The camera, mounted near the inside rearview mirror, identifies traffic lane markings and provides audible alerts;

- Side blind zone alert – Using radar sensors on both sides of the vehicle, the system "looks" for other vehicles in the blind zone areas of the Impala and indicates their presence with light-emitting diode, or LED-lit symbols in the outside mirrors;
- Rear cross traffic alert – Based on the radar sensors of side blind zone alert, it warns the driver of vehicles in traffic when backing out of a parking spot – including angled parking. Visual and audible alerts are triggered if moving vehicles are detected;
- Rear vision camera with dynamic guidelines – With a display in the center stack infotainment system, the camera provides a view of objects directly behind the Impala, while the dynamic guidelines provide a reference that helps make parking and other maneuvers easier;

- Ultrasonic rear park assist – Uses sensors in the rear bumper to detect objects directly behind the vehicle and alerts the driver.
- Brake pre-fill feature – To quicken the response time of the brakes and help shorten stopping distances, this feature "loads" the brake calipers in anticipation of hard braking by



A 2014 Chevrolet Impala, which includes new safety technologies, being tested for crashworthiness.

slightly increasing the hydraulic pressure in the brake lines whenever the driver's foot lifts off the accelerator pedal.

This feature is included on models equipped with adaptive cruise control and collision mitigation braking;

- Hill hold/start assist – Applies the brakes for about 1.5 seconds to prevent roll-back when the driver moves his or her foot from the brake to the accelerator pedal.

The advanced crash-avoidance technologies complement the Impala's occupant protection features, including 10 standard air bags such as dual-stage front passenger air bags with passenger sensing system and driver and front passenger side-impact air bags.

The system includes driver and front passenger knee air bags and rear outboard side-impact air bags along with head curtain air bags with rollover sensing for front and rear outboard positions and safety belt pretensioners and a child seat restraint system.

Kent said the Impala also employs systems that enable greater vehicle control, including

standard StabiliTrak electronic stability control system, all-speed traction control, four-wheel disc brakes with four-channel antilock brakes and electronic brake force distribution, which ensures optimal braking force at both axles for maximum stability under heavy braking.

OnStar is standard, Kent said. It uses GPS and cellular phone technology to automatically call

for help in the event of a crash. OnStar service also includes MyLink mobile apps, which offer vehicle information and OnStar services via the customer's smartphone.

Got News?

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Delphi Revenue Up 6 Percent

Delphi Automotive reported second quarter 2013 revenues of \$4.2 billion, an increase of 6 percent from the second quarter last year, primarily reflecting the acquisition of the Motorized Vehicles Division ("MVL") from FCI Group.

Adjusted for currency exchange, commodity movements, acquisitions and divestitures, revenue increased by 1 percent in the second quarter.

The supplier reported second quarter U.S. GAAP net income of \$367 million and earnings of \$1.17 per diluted share, compared with \$330 million and \$1.01

per diluted share in the previous year. The current year quarterly U.S. GAAP results include special items consisting of restructuring-related charges and acquisition-related integration costs. Excluding these special items, Delphi reported adjusted second quarter earnings of \$388 million compared with adjusted earnings of \$336 million last year.

"Delphi had another quarter of outstanding operating performance," said Rodney O'Neal, CEO. "Our operating model and lean cost structure allowed us to achieve record margins and increase earnings per share."

Lear Records 2nd Quarter Net Sales of \$4.1 Billion

Lear Corporation last week reported its financial results for the second quarter, including net sales of \$4.1 billion, which were up 12 percent.

- Other highlights include:
- Core operating earnings of \$224 million, up 13 percent;
 - Adjusted earnings per share of \$1.62, up 20 percent;
 - Free cash flow of \$74 million.

In a statement released to the public, Lear stated it had record quarterly sales and earnings in its Electrical Power Management System.

The company also executed an \$800 million accelerated share repurchase (ASR) program and retired 11.9 million shares.

In the second quarter, global vehicle production increased 3 percent from a year ago, including increases of 11 percent in China and 6 percent in North America.

Europe and Africa industry production was up 2 percent compared with a year ago. While the European industry continues to be below trend, this was the first quarter without a year-over-year decline since the fourth quarter of 2011.

"Lear performed well in the second quarter, with sales and earnings growing faster than global industry production," said Matt Simoncini, Lear's president and chief executive officer.

"Our strong financial position allows us to strengthen and grow our business while improving our cost structure. We plan to maintain a balanced approach of investing in the business and returning excess cash to shareholders in order to drive shareholder value."

This year's second-quarter results compare with net sales of \$3.7 billion, core operating earn-

ings of \$197 million, net income of \$145 million, diluted earnings per share of \$1.45 and adjusted earnings per share of \$1.35 in the second quarter of 2012.

In the Seating segment, net sales were up 10 percent to \$3.1 billion, reflecting higher production on key platforms, the addition of new business and an acquisition.

Adjusted segment earnings were \$178 million or 5.8 percent of sales.

Earnings decreased from last year, primarily reflecting the impact of key program changeovers, partially offset by the increase in sales.

Net sales grew by 20 percent to \$1 billion, driven primarily by the addition of new business and higher production on key platforms.

Adjusted segment earnings were \$101 million or 9.7 percent of sales. Earnings increased from last year, reflecting the increase in sales, as well as improved operating efficiencies.

The specific number of shares that Lear will ultimately repurchase under the ASR program will be based on the daily volume weighted average price of Lear's common stock during the term of the program.

The transaction is expected to be completed no later than March 2014.

The financial report stated that after the completion of the ASR program, Lear will have \$750 million remaining in its existing share repurchase authorization, which will expire two years after the completion of the ASR program.

Since initiating the share repurchase program in early 2011, Lear has repurchased 27.1 million shares of its common stock.

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