



International Carwash Association
Serving the Professional Car Care Industry

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GM Fixed Mast Antenna Problem

General Motors has reported that a possible problem exists on all 1999-2000 passenger cars and trucks with fixed mast antennas (Service Information Bulletin 99-08-44-007).

Apparently, many antenna are being improperly installed during New Vehicle Inspection/Pre-Delivery Inspection (NVI/PDI). This can lead to concerns regarding poor radio performance, loss of antenna, rattle concerns or damage in a car wash. The antenna is designed to be installed on the vehicle and left in place, as it is designed to withstand car washes, etc. GM does not recommend removal and re-installation of the antenna, as failure of the treads on the base or in the antenna itself may result. However, they do recommend tightening the antenna mast, if loose, using the following procedure.

In 1999-2000, two types of antenna masts are being used. To identify the different antenna types, look at the ferrule (the portion of the antenna which attaches to the mounting base).

- The antenna mast without a dimple in one of the sides will screw down to the mounting base easily. This antenna must be tightened with the aid of a cloth and a small adjustable wrench turn after contact with the base.
- The antenna mast with a dimple will not screw down to the mounting base easily. This antenna must be tightened (with the aid of a cloth and a small adjustable wrench) about 2 turns until it comes in contact with the mounting base; then tightened with an additional turn.

If the fixed mast antenna breaks while in your car wash, it is recommended that you refer the above mentioned GM Technical Services Bulletin to your customer, who can then return the problem antenna to the dealership where the vehicle was purchased.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact me through ICA Headquarters at ica@sba.com.

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