



TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN

ACCESSORY BELT DRIVE SYSTEM

PREMATURE TENSIONER FAILURE DUE TO A/C COMPRESSOR SLUGGING

High failure rates of the accessory belt drive tensioner on numerous General Motors light trucks led the OE to investigate the issue. After a thorough analysis, General Motors concluded that due to the relative low mounting of the air conditioning compressor with respect to the rest of the system, liquid refrigerant and oil can pool inside the compressor after extended periods of inactivity. This can result in liquid slugging of the A/C compressor and catastrophic damage to the compressor when the unit is activated. Moreover, the additional strain induced into the accessory belt drive system can cause the tensioner and serpentine belt to fail.

Evidence of overheating caused by compressor slugging.



Anytime unusual noises are heard emanating from the engine compartment, or poor performance from the A/C system is observed, the technician should thoroughly inspect the vehicle for compressor slugging. The most common indications of compressor slugging include damage to the tensioner stop as illustrated below, a broken serpentine belt, or a blown apart A/C compressor. A thorough examination of the transmission cooler lines should also be performed as damage could result from contact with the serpentine belt.

BULLETIN TSB_039_US

PART NUMBER:

- 38159

MAKE:

- Buick
- Cadillac
- Chevrolet
- GMC
- Hummer
- Isuzu

MODEL:

- Rainer
- Escalade
- Avalanche
- Express
- Silverado
- SSR
- Suburban
- Tahoe
- Trailblazer
- Envoy
- Savana
- Sierra
- Yukon
- H2
- Ascender
- 9-7X

YEAR:

- 1999-2009

ENGINE:

- 4.8L
- 5.3L
- 6.0L
- 6.2L



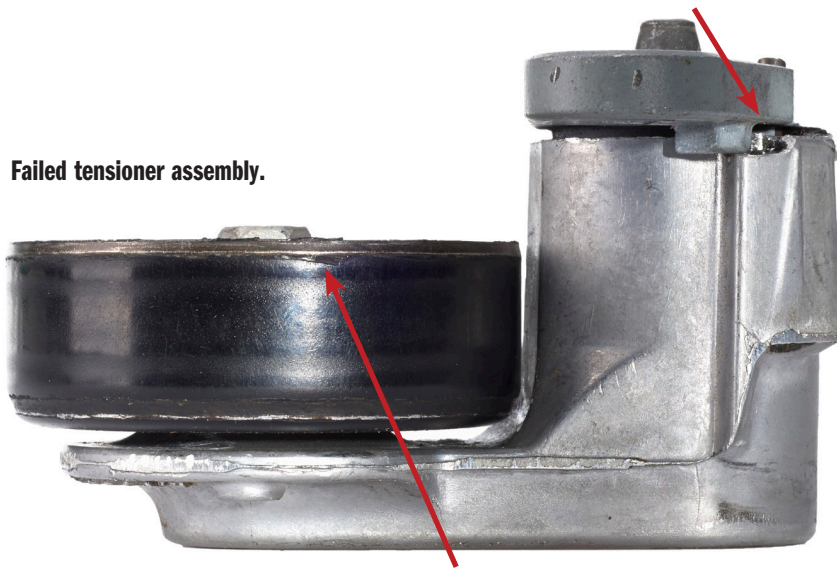
Tensioner stop with normal operation of tensioner.



Properly functioning tensioner assembly.

While this bulletin outlines the major concerns regarding compressor slugging on these applications, please refer to the factory workshop manual and GM Bulletin # 03-01-38-019A for proper service procedures and precautions.

Damage to the tensioner stop due to compressor slugging.



Failed tensioner assembly.

Evidence of contact with foreign components.

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