



AP Exhaust Products, Inc.  
300 Dixie Trail  
Goldsboro, NC 27530

Phone: 919.580.2000  
Toll Free: 800.277.2787  
Fax: 919.580.2010

[www.apexhaust.com](http://www.apexhaust.com)

## TECHNICAL NOTICE 03-12-08

**PRODUCT LINE:** Catalytic Converters

**PART NO.s:** 642525 or 642583

**APPLICATION:** 3.4L and 3.8L GM W-BODY VEHICLES

**DESCRIPTION:** Alleged Converter Failure; PO 420 or Emissions Test Failure

**FINDINGS:** Contamination of Converter Substrate Evident

**SITUATION:** There is a growing number of alleged warranty claims on these two converters due to Catalyst Efficiency fault codes – (PO 420), and / or the vehicle failing an emissions test, after the completion of numerous drive cycles.

Upon technical inspection of returned units, it has been discovered that the returned converters have a sooty, oily coating on the substrate. The coating (suspected antifreeze and/or oil) does not allow the noble metals on the converter substrate to react with the exhaust gases and function properly. This condition will cause the vehicle's MIL to come on and may lead to a non-warrantable failure during an emissions test.

In many cases, before the converter was condemned, the vehicles that had previously failed an emissions test passed re-inspection after a fuel injection/induction cleaning service was performed. This demonstrates the converter (once cleaned) reacted positively following this simple cleaning of the substrate.

While it is undetermined why the OE converter failed prematurely, there exists a reasonable possibility that contamination of the converter may be coming from internal intake manifold leaks.

There exist several **Technical Service Bulletins** addressing the issue of manifold coolant leaks. Other TSB's have been issued noting coolant intrusion into the O<sub>2</sub> sensor harness, which can cause an electrical short in the O<sub>2</sub> sensor circuit, resulting in damage to the sensor and triggering a fault code.

It is strongly recommended that **prior** to the replacement of a converter all applicable **Technical Service Bulletins** be referenced on the vehicles associated with 642525 and 642583 converters. Close attention must be paid to the possible trouble areas during the diagnostic process, again, **prior** to replacement of a converter, OE or Aftermarket, as converter contamination is **not a warranty** condition.

### TECHNICAL

**ASSISTANCE:** Contact Danny Parrish or Orlando Silva @ 1-800-277-2787