

July 18, 2017

To: Chevrolet Performance Racing Engine Promoters
Chevrolet Performance Circle Track Engine Builders

From: Bill Martens – Special Programs Manager

Subject: Valve Spring Color Variation

Thanks to a report from the field, we have confirmed that an unknown number of beehive valve springs, #12625033, used in valve spring kit #12499224 and conversion kit #19300952, do not have the same shade of blue paint that has been used since the introduction of this part some 6 years ago. The spec on this spring has not changed, and the color variation is not an indication of inferior performance, or below specifications. The parts in question may appear to be a very dark blue, or nearly a black finish. Although not yet reported, it is possible that cylinder head #19300955 used on engine #19318604 could have been built with the “black” valve spring prior to this date. This is due to formula variations in the paint applied during the manufacturing process. The manufacturer has agreed to implement changes that will return future product to its previous appearance.

At this time it has not been determined what actions will be taken with inventory already in the field. A check of inventory has begun to determine where springs are that do not meet appearance standards and if there are sufficient “normal blue” springs in inventory to continue an uninterrupted supply, in all configurations, to the field. Chevrolet Performance uses thousands of this spring annually, so the task to inspect and sort is not going to be accomplished overnight. The purpose of this notice is to advise the field that black or very dark blue springs found during a tech inspection should not disqualify an engine on the basis of appearance alone. If the springs meet the measured load/pressure specification at the stock installed height spec, they should be declared legal.

We understand that variation between engines/components is undesirable and we make every attempt to provide a consistent supply of engines and service parts to the racing community. Over the past 14 years, Chevrolet Performance is proud of the overall record of delivering uniform parts, but as the saying goes: stuff happens! We will communicate our action plan to the field as soon as inventory inspections are complete, hopefully within a week.

A bulletin will be sent to Chevrolet Performance dealers within the next couple of days to inform them of the issue. Depending on the intended use of the spring, in a street performance engine for example, there is no engineering reason not to use the darker colored spring. For use on CT400 (#19318604) engines, we would advise using only the familiar “blue” springs to avoid any inspection issues, now or in the future.

Note: **This notice is not a product recall, since the color variation does not alter performance.** However, because of the unique usage of this spring, and corresponding inspection ramifications, we felt obligated to inform you of pending actions.

We apologize for any inconvenience this issue may be for your tech inspectors and racers. We felt this early notice may avoid later issues that could unfairly penalize racers and cause heartburn for engine builders. Watch for updates soon.