

Wheels: Gary writes that he was shopping for a new truck and saw a 2002 Chevrolet Avalanche at a dealer. While test driving it, the check engine light came on. Gary then drove to a nearby parts store where they were able to retrieve a diagnostic trouble code P0430 – catalytic converter failure code. The dealer said that they would replace the converter. Gary asks if there is anything that could have caused this problem.

Halderman: Gary is wise to ask this question because catalytic converters are designed to last the life of the vehicle unless damaged by something else. There is an old saying that states, “Catalytic converters do not commit suicide – they are murdered.” This means that unless the root cause of the failure is found and corrected, the problem can occur again. The catalytic converter is covered under the emission warranty for 8 years or 80,000 miles, whichever occurs first. However, the diagnosis and repair of items that could cause the converter to fail are not covered by the emission warranty.

