

“GHOST START” Starter Cranks After Key Is Released On Cold Start

2003 Chevrolet Silverado, Suburban, Tahoe
2003 GMC Sierra, Yukon, Yukon XL
With 4.8L, 5.3L, 6.0L, 8.1L Gas Engine

Condition: Owners of these vehicles may comment that the starter will continue to run after key is released.

This is a normal condition and no repairs should be attempted. For the 2003 model year, the Power Control Module (PCM) controls the starter relay on input from the key switch. When the key switch is held in the start position for 0.4 seconds, the PCM start timer is activated and will continue to crank the starter until either the engine starts or a start time limit is reached.

These engines use a specific fuel pump module and occasionally, the fuel pump takes one to two seconds to build pressure, the operator may release the ignition switch before the engine actually starts. The engine will continue to crank until the engine starts or the no start time limit is reached. Most often this occurs after vehicle sits overnight.