



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

MAR 28 2006

NVS-216 pe
Ref #10148618

Marion, NC

Dear

Thank you for your correspondence dated December 21, 2005, concerning your 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix. The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received your correspondence on January 9, 2006. Due to limited resources we were not able to respond to you in a timelier manner. We regret any inconvenience our delay may have caused you.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate this and the previous report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

On November 14, 2001, NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation opened a preliminary evaluation (PE01-038) into reports alleging power steering rack and pinion failure in certain 1997 Pontiac Grand Prix vehicles. On April 4, 2002, ODI upgraded PE01-038 to an engineering analysis (EA02-003). An engineering analysis is a more detailed and complete technical analysis of the character and scope of an alleged defect. General Motors Corporation (GM) recalled over 159,000 vehicles to correct a power steering problem. For your information, we have enclosed a copy of the closing resume for EA02-003 and the summary of the recall (NHTSA campaign no. 02V286000). Please confer with an authorized Pontiac dealership for further information regarding this recall. Provide your vehicle identification number (VIN) to determine if your vehicle was recalled for the power steering rack and pinion problem or remains among those requiring the corrective action.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4238

You can contact our toll-free DOT Auto Safety Hotline (Hotline) at 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236). One of our representatives may be able to assist you on matters concerning motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment safety recalls or to report an alleged safety problem. You can also request safety information. If our telephones are busy, or you call during non-working hours, you can leave your name, telephone number, and a brief subject on our recording system. A DOT Hotline representative will return your call.

Additionally, we have an Internet Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> that you may want to visit. An electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ) is also available on this Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. This form is for vehicle owners to report safety related problems about their motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment, e.g., child safety seats, jacks, tires, brake fluid, etc. The reports submitted are transferred to our database and are used to identify safety-related defect trends that require our attention. If you do not have access to the Internet, please use the enclosed VOQ to inform this agency of any future motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment safety problems you may experience. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc., can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,



Alberto A. Jimenez, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure(s)