

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 03-012 Prompted By: RQ03-004 Date Opened: 07/25/2003

Principal Investigator: BRUCE YORK-B Subject: REAR BRAKE LINE FAILURE

Manufacturer: FORD MOTOR COMPANY

Products: 1995-97 GRAND MARQUIS, TOWN CAR, CROWN VICTORIA

Population: 785262

Problem Description: THE REAR BRAKE LINES MAY FAIL, RESULTING IN INCREASED

STOPPING DISTANCE.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	40	192	232
Crashes/Fires:	2	0	2
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	1 0	i o i
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	478	478

*Description Of Other: WARRANTY CLAIMS

Action: AN ENGINEERING ANALYSIS HAS BEEN OPENED.

Engineer: <u>Bruce York</u> J''
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: <u>07/25/2003</u>

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Summary: ODI HAS RECEIVED 40 COMPLAINTS ALLEGING REAR BRAKE LINE FAILURE IN THE SUBJECT VEHICLES, INCLUDING 8 THAT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED THIS YEAR. AN ADDITIONAL 192 REPORTS AND 478 WARRANTY CLAIMS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM FORD. A LEAK IN THE REAR BRAKE LINE CAN CAUSE EXTENDED STOPPING DISTANCE.

A SEARCH OF ODI'S COMPLAINT DATABASE FOR PEER VEHICLE COMPLAINTS, USING THE SAME BRAKE LINE FAILURE CRITERIA AS FOR THE SUBJECT VEHICLES AND THE SAME MODEL YEARS (1995-97), IDENTIFIED ONLY 1 COMPLAINT INVOLVING GENERAL MOTORS CAPRICE/IMPLALA/88/98/REGAL VEHICLES AND ONLY 2 COMPLAINTS INVOLVING CHRYSLER LH-CARS.

AN ENGINEERING ANALYSIS HAS BEEN OPENED TO FURTHER EVALUATE THE FREQUENCY, SCOPE, AND CAUSAL FACTORS RELATED TO REAR BRAKE LINE FAILURES IN THE SUBJECT VEHICLE POPULATION.



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