



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-028  
 Prompted By: PE04-043  
 Date Opened: 09/14/2004      Date Closed: 11/22/2004  
 Principal Investigator: Ali Motamedamin  
 Subject: Turn Signal Malfunction

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.  
 Products: 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier & Pontiac Sunfire  
 Population: 256,205

Problem Description: Alleged turn signal malfunction.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	36	927	963
Crashes/Fires:	4	3	7
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

\*Description of Other:

Action: This Engineering Analysis (EA) is closed. GM will conduct safety recall 04V524.

Engineer: Ali Motamedamin A.M.

Date: 11/22/2004

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 11/22/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 11/22/2004

Summary: On May 14, 2004 the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE04-043) based on consumer complaints alleging that the brake/tail turn signal lamps would not operate properly when either the tail lights were turned on, the brake pedal was depressed, or when the turn signal switch was activated. On September 14, 2004 ODI upgraded PE04-043 to an Engineering Analysis (EA04-028).

GM states that some brake/tail/turn signal lamp bulbs can prematurely become inoperative due to excessive heat buildup within the bulb sockets. The cause of the excessive heat build up was determined to be a lack of thermal grease placed in between the bulb and the socket.

By letter dated October 27, 2004 GM notified NHTSA that it will conduct a safety recall (NHTSA # 04V524) covering all MY 2003 vehicles. GM dealers will inspect the rear lamp bulb socket assemblies and apply thermal grease to them or replace them with new assemblies with thermal grease already attached. Model Year 2004 and newer vehicles have the thermal grease installed from the factory.

The action taken by GM is sufficient to resolve the issues raised by this investigation. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.