



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-012

Date Opened: 02/02/2004

Date Closed: 06/09/2004

Principal Investigator: NATE SEYMOUR

Subject: HEADLIGHT SWITCH FAILURES

Manufacturer: THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC.

Products: 1999-2002 THOMAS BUILT FE SCHOOLBUSES

Population: 6,226

Problem Description: THE HEADLIGHT SWITCH MAY FAIL, MELT, OR OVER-HEAT CAUSING A LOSS OF ILLUMINATION OF THE DASH AND/OR EXTERIOR LIGHTS AND POSSIBLY CREATE A HEAT SOURCE FOR A VEHICLE FIRE.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	18	7	25
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
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 PE is closed as an EA has been opened

Engineer: Nate Seymour

Date: 06/09/2004

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 06/09/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 06/09/2004

Summary: ODI has received several failed switches that show signs of melting or damage from over-heating. The switch supplier has initiated a test program to determine the cause of these failures.

ODI is concerned about the presence of a heat source that potentially could lead to an electrical fire, as well as the absence of necessary vehicle lighting. ODI will continue its investigation to verify the extent of the problem represented by the reported failures and evaluate the associated risks.