



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-032
 Prompted By: IE 04-015
 Date Opened: 04/06/2004 Date Closed: 08/03/2004
 Principal Investigator: Ali Motamedamin
 Subject: Brake Lamp Failure

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.
 Products: 2002-2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer
 Population: 782,831

Problem Description: Brake lamp bulb fails to illuminate when the brake pedal is depressed.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	64	559	623
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 Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been upgraded to Engineering Analysis (EA) 04-021.

Engineer: Ali Motamedamin Am
 Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
 Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/03/2004
 Date: 08/03/2004
 Date: 08/03/2004

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened this investigation on Model Year (MY) 2002-04 Chevrolet Trailblazer Vehicles. GM reports that other vehicles sharing this platform and brake lamp design are the MY 2002-2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT; GMC Envoy, XL, XUV; Oldsmobile Bravada and 2004 Buick Rainier. Complaints allege that the rear brake lamp does not operate when the brake pedal is depressed. There is no indication to the driver from inside the vehicle that one or more brake lamps bulbs are not functioning.

GM found that heat from the bulb could deform the lamp socket, produce electrical arcing and an inoperative bulb. To correct the condition, GM changed the bulb to a bulb that transmits less heat to the socket and changed the socket to a thermoplastic polymer to improve thermal stability. These changes were implemented into production vehicles on October 1, 2003.

GM implemented a "Special Policy" by notifying consumers that if they should experience a brake lamp failure to go to their GM dealership to have the circuit board containing the brake lamp replaced along with new bulbs. This policy is good for the first 6 years or 72,000 miles of the life of the vehicle.

ODI will upgrade this investigation to EA 04-021 and include the above mentioned vehicles.

08-5-04