



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-043
 Prompted By: IE 04-037, Consumer Complaints & TSB
 Date Opened: 05/14/2004 Date Closed: 09/14/2004
 Principal Investigator: Ali Motamedamin
 Subject: Turn Signal Malfunction

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.
 Products: MY 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier and Pontiac Sunfire
 Population: 256,206

Problem Description: Alleged turn signal malfunction.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	29	585	614
Crashes/Fires:	1	0	1
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 an Engineering Analysis (EA) 04-028.

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

Date: 09/14/2004
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Summary: Complainants allege that the rear turn signals fail to illuminate and do not provide a signal to drivers in following vehicles. ODI has received one report of a crash where the complainant braked and attempted to make a left turn and the following vehicle impacted the complainant's vehicle in the driver-side door.

In May 2002, GM's supplier made changes to the bulb socket that included stopping the use of thermal-mastic grease in the bulb socket. GM reports that the grease reduces arcing at the contacts and dissipates heat thus preventing melting of the socket material or burning of the contacts. Most of the subject vehicles were produced without grease applied to the bulb socket. In June 2003, GM directed the supplier to resume the use of grease in the socket.

GM issued Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) 04-08-42-004A on July 15, 2004 advising technicians to make sure that adequate amounts of grease were added to the bulb sockets on all service parts.

ODI will upgrade this investigation to EA 04-028 to further examine the issue.

ED
9/15/04