



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 04-010
Date Opened: 09/28/2004 Date Closed: 04/14/2005
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
Subject: Tailgate Support Cable Breakage

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.
Products: GM 1998-1999 & partial model year 2000 Silverado & Sierra
Population: 1667937

Problem Description: When the tailgate is in the open (horizontal) position, one or both of the tailgate support cables can break causing the supported individual and/or cargo to drop to the ground without warning.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	40	642	682
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	7	45	52
# Injuries:	8	46	54
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	11560	11560

*Description of Other: warranty claims for 1998 and 1999 model year vehicles.

Action: Upgrade this Recall Query to an Engineering Analysis (EA05-007).

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 04/14/2005

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 04/14/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/14/2005

Summary: ODI is upgrading RQ04-010 and opening an Engineering Analysis to further investigate the tailgate support cables installed in 1998, 1999, and partial year 2000 Silverados and Sierras (C/K models).

General Motors is conducting Recall Campaign 04V-129 to replace the tailgate support cables originally installed in certain model year 2000-2004 Sierras and Silverados.

General Motors has advised ODI that the materials used for the tailgate cable sheathing installed in C/K models had inadvertently changed in October 1999, increasing the propensity for voids in and around the galvanized steel cable strands which can allow moisture to wick among the strands, leading to oxidation and weakening of the strands.

Since ODI initiated RQ04-010 in September 2004, ODI has received 10 additional non-injury complaints on MY 1998-99 C/K vehicles, but no additional injury complaints. During this same time period, GM has received 564 non-injury and 35 injury complaints. (continued on next page)

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Tom Bowman, ODI - NHTSA
1 of 2

ODI has received 6 injury complaints and 38 non-injury complaints from owners of model year 2000 C/K vehicles and requires further investigation to determine whether these incidents occurred within the scope of Campaign 04V-129 or should be added to the injury summary for RQ04-010 (EA05-007).