



U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-014
Prompted By: Fleet Complaints
Date Opened: 06/09/2004
Principal Investigator: Nate Seymour
Subject: School Bus Lighting Failures

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC, Thomas Built Buses, Inc.
Products: 1999-2004 Thomas Built School Buses
Population: 8000 (Estimated)

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: An Engineering Analysis 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.

*JLB
faxed on
7/13/04*