



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

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-028  
Prompted By: PE04-043  
Date Opened: 09/14/2004  
Principal Investigator: Ali Motamedamin  
Subject: Turn Signal Malfunction

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.  
Products: MY 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier & Pontiac Sunfire  
Population: 256,205

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: An Engineering Analysis (EA) is opened.

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

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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 open an Engineering Analysis to further examine the issue.

DD 9/15/04