



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-012
Prompted By: FLEET COMPLAINTS
Date Opened: 02/02/2004
Principal Investigator: NATE SEYMOUR
Subject: HEADLIGHT SWITCH

Manufacturer: THOMAS BUILT BUSES, INC.
Products: 1999-2002 THOMAS BUILT FE SCHOOLBUSES
Population: 4000

Problem Description: The dash switch controlling the vehicle's headlights may overheat and fail, resulting in inoperative exterior lights and/or loss of dash illumination and melted wire harnesses.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	18	0	18
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: A PE HAS BEEN OPENED.

Engineer: Nate Seymour /NS
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: Three school bus fleets have reported multiple failures of headlight switches. In all cases, the dash lights become inoperative. In some cases headlight and marker lights have also failed. Some drivers have experienced a burning smell when the switch failed and found the switch connections melted.

ODI is opening a Preliminary Evaluation to make a specific determination as to why these wiring overload/headlight switch failures are occurring and to determine exactly what the ramifications of these failures are.