



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
Principal Investigator: Ali Motamedamin
Subject: Turn Signal Malfunction

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

Problem Description: Alleged turn signal malfunction.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	15	0	15
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 Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is opened.

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

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Summary: ODI has received 15 complaints of alleged turn signal failure in model year (MY) 2003 Chevrolet Cavalier and Pontiac Sunfire vehicles. Five of the 15 complainants indicate a problem in the bulb socket of the rear lamp assembly. One consumer reported smoke coming from the rear left turn signal/brake lamp assembly during vehicle operation. The consumer's mechanic inspected the vehicle and discovered that the entire turn signal/brake lamp assembly had melted.

In March 2004, GM issued Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) #04-08-42-004. GM indicates that a loose fitting bulb can result in the bulb exhibiting a higher resistance than required for normal operation. This can cause the bulb to burn out and/or damage the socket. The condition may also affect the tail lamps and brake lamps. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine if a safety defect trend exists.

5/14/04
TSC