



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 04-002
Prompted By: IE04-001
Date Opened: 02/18/2004
Principal Investigator: Peter Ong
Subject: Driver's Seat Belt Buckle Assembly

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.
Products: 1997 Chevrolet S-10 and GMC Sonoma Pickup Trucks
Population: 219,150

Problem Description: The energy-absorbing loop in the driver's safety belt buckle assembly may deploy during rollover crashes and increase the risk of partial or full ejection of the occupant

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	0	2
Crashes/Fires:	2	0	2
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	2	0	2
# Fatalities:	2	0	2
Other*:	0	0	0

***Description Of Other:**

Action: This Recall Query (RQ) has been opened

Engineer: Peter C. Ong

Date: 02/18/2004

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 02/18/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/18/2004

Summary: ODI has received 2 consumer complaints alleging the energy-absorbing loop in the driver's seat belt buckle assembly deployed during a rollover crash. In each crash, a belted driver was ejected and received fatal injuries to the head.

On March 27, 2003, GM issued a safety recall campaign (03V-117) on 1997 Chevrolet Blazer, GMC Jimmy, and Oldsmobile Bravada sport utility vehicles (SUV) for defective energy-absorbing loop seat belt in the driver seat position. In its defect report, GM states that during a severe rollover crash, the energy-absorbing loop can deploy and introduce an additional 10 inches of webbing into the seat belt system. The loose seat belt can allow the occupant to be partially or fully ejected from the vehicle.

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