



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 04-011
Prompted By: Consumer Complaints
Date Opened: 10/22/2004
Principal Investigator: Peter Ong
Subject: Ford Front Seat Belt Buckle Assembly

Manufacturer: Ford Motor Company
Products: MY 2001 Ford Light Trucks, SUVs, Minivans and Large Passenger Cars
Population: 1,280,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Reports allege buckle failure after recall remedy has been performed.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	11	0	11
Crashes/Fires:	2	0	2
Injury Incidents:	2	0	2
# Injuries:	2	0	2
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	9	0	9

*Description of Other: Alleged buckle failure reports with unknown recall completion status.

Action: This recall query has been opened.

Engineer: Peter C. Ong

Date: 10/22/2004

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper *TZC*

Date: 10/22/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 10/22/2004

Summary: Recall 01V227 involved TRW seat belt assemblies in Ford light-duty trucks, SUVs, minivans and large passenger vehicles. The model names are Ranger, F-150 through F-550, Expedition, Navigator, Excursion, Windstar, Crown Victoria, Grand Marquis and Town Car. The front seat belt buckle could inadvertently unlatch. A non-operable seat belt buckle may not protect the occupant fully during severe braking or crash conditions.

ODI has received 11 consumer reports alleging that the front seat belt buckle assembly failed. The reports specifically state that the dealer performed the recall procedure under recall 01V227 and the dealer determined that the buckle was not defective and did not require replacement. The other 9 reports, also received by the agency after Ford issued its safety recall, allege that a buckle failed or unlatched during normal use or did not hold during crash but did not identify whether the recall procedure was completed.

TZC
10-25-04