

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation
NSA-10.01, 400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

2005 JAN 14 AM 4:17

2005 JAN 25 A 8:33

NATIONAL HIGHWAY
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADM.

Petition for Defect Investigation into 2000-2002 Saturn L-Series Left-Hand Tail Lamp Assemblies

To Whom It May Concern:

To date, I have had to replace the left-hand tail lamp assembly on my 2001 Saturn L200 three times. Each time the circuit board at the light socket contact had begun to melt/corrode, creating a gap in the contact and leaving me without tail/ brake lights.

During the first incident I noticed my right-hand brake light/ tail light was inoperative. A replacement bulb did not correct the condition. The circuit board had failed in the left-hand tail lamp assembly, which was the cause of the right-hand assembly losing power. Apparently the power feed comes in through the left-hand assembly and is then routed to the right-hand assembly. A disruption in the left hand assembly will cause both to not function. Replacement of the left-hand assembly corrected the problem for several thousand miles.

Gradually, I had begun to notice that whenever I applied brakes with the headlights on, all interior lights would dim. At the same time my brake lights and tail lights had ceased to function with the headlights on. The circuit board at the socket contact in the left-hand tail lamp assembly had failed again. This time, when removing the socket to check the bulb, the circuit board fell apart. A replacement assembly was necessary, and corrected the problem for a time.

Recently my brake lights were operating at different brightness levels and my center high mounted brake lamps were not all working. A Saturn dealership informed me that a bulb had blown in the left hand tail lamp assembly. A replacement bulb did not correct the condition. The left-hand tail lamp assembly had failed again, as my brake lights did not work with the headlights turned on but did work with the headlights turned off. The socket was loose and no longer made proper contact with the assembly. Another replacement assembly was required.

I have looked into the consumer complaints on your website and have noticed a similar trend among Saturn L-Series 2000-2002 owners. (These vehicles are sometimes listed as L-Series, L200, LW300, LS1, etc.) I have counted approximately 47 complaints relating to the complaints in this petition. The ODI ID numbers of each of these complaints are located at the end of this letter for your reference. Several consumers complain that their tail lights go out with the headlights turned on or that their brake lights do not function. Several report having to replace an entire tail lamp assembly, as I have done three times. Still others report no resolution. At this point I would like the 2000-2002 Saturn L-Series

ETG 560

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left-hand tail lamp assemblies investigated. Replacement assemblies for my vehicle and others continue to fail. For 2003-2005 Saturn changed the overall design of the tail lamp as part of a face lift and I see no consumer complaints for those years. It can only be assumed that a design change corrected the problem.

ODI ID Numbers:

562085
566479
759455
769648
8002229
8017118
8018564
8022850
10003676
10017613
10018905
10024503
10024805
10033374
10039774
10040856
10046544
10048600
10049727
10057208
10058195
10058222
10061163
10064907
10069520
10072656
10078466
10078667
10083602
10091479
10093363
10093765
10094581
10095027
10095877
10096418
10098015
10098233
10098278

10098456
10099695
10100347
10100417
10100897
10102575
10103758
10104176

I appreciate your looking into this matter and advising me as to whether this petition is accepted.

Sincerely,

Brad Lamb

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brad Lamb".

Brad Lamb
PO Box 453
Pittsboro, NC 27312