



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

## ODI PETITION RESUME

Investigation: DP 05-001  
Prompted By: Petition Request  
Date Opened: 02/10/2005 Date Closed: 02/22/2005  
Principal Investigator: Cynthia Glass  
Subject: Inoperative Tail Lamps

Manufacturer: General Motors Corporation  
Products: 2000-2002 Saturn L-Series  
Population: 282,000

Problem Description: Petitioner alleges that the tail lamps go out completely while operating the vehicle.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

|                     | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints:         | 50  | 0            | 50    |
| 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: The defect petition has been granted. PE05-010 has been opened.

Engineer: Cynthia Glass (AG)  
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/22/2005  
Date: 02/22/2005  
Date: 02/22/2005

Summary: On January 25, 2005, a safety defect petition was received by the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), requesting an investigation of inoperative tail lamps on MY 2000-2002 Saturn L-Series vehicles. The petitioner alleges a defect in the design and assembly of the tail lamp assembly circuit board and light socket contact. The petitioner identified 47 Vehicle Owner Questionnaire's (VOQ's) associated with the alleged defect, and ODI concurs that 40 of those VOQ's satisfy the scope of this investigation. ODI has found an additional 10 VOQ's related to the allegation. ODI has granted the petition and opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE05-010).



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## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-010  
Date Opened: 02/15/2005  
Principal Investigator: CYNTHIA GLASS  
Subject: INOPERATIVE TAIL LAMPS

Manufacturer: General Motors Corporation  
Products: MY 2000-2002 Saturn L-Series  
Population: 282,000 (Estimated)

Problem description: Complainants allege that the tail lamps go out completely while operating the vehicle.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

|                     | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints:         | 50  | 0            | 50    |
| 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: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

Engineer: Cynthia Glass  
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. Demeter

Date: 02/15/2005  
Date: 02/15/2005  
Date: 02/15/2005

Summary: On January 25, 2005, a Safety Defect Petition was received by the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), requesting an investigation of inoperative tail lamps on my 2000 - 2002 Saturn L-Series vehicles. The petitioner alleges a defect in the design and assembly of the tail lamp assembly circuit board and the light socket contact. Under certain circumstances, the circuit board can melt/corrode, disrupting power to the tail lamp, and causing the tail lamp to go out completely and permanently. In addition, the petitioner alleges that application of the service brake causes the tail lamp to cease to function.