



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-008  
Date Opened: 02/10/2005      Date Closed: 06/13/2005  
Principal Investigator: Peter C. Ong  
Subject: Seatbelt Malfunction

Manufacturer: Toyota Motor North America, Inc.  
Products: MY 2004 Toyota Sienna  
Population: 215,250

**Problem Description:** The middle-row seatbelt webbing may jam in the belt guide housing slot and create a slack seatbelt condition.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	10	40	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	3,073	3,073

\*Description of other: MY 2004 Sienna warranty claims

Action: Upgrade to an engineering analysis (EA05-010).

Engineer: Peter C. Ong *plw*

Date: 06/13/2005

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 06/13/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 06/13/2005

**Summary:** ODI received ten consumer complaints alleging that the middle-row passenger seatbelt webbing frequently jams in the integrated seatbelt guide housing slot. During normal body movement of the occupant, the webbing jams in the slot due to a dislodged cover plate, thus causing excess slack in the seatbelt assembly.

Toyota's letter response to the agency identifies 40 other consumer and field reports and 3,073 warranty repairs that require the replacement of the seatbelt guide assembly. In addition, there are another 16 warranty claims on MY 2005 Sienna vehicles. Complainants expressed concern for children occupying the middle-row seats. They may not recognize the potential safety risk or be able to remedy a slack seatbelt. A slack or jammed seatbelt does not offer proper occupant protection in the event of a crash.

Toyota has implemented a recent design change to correct the problem. Toyota will apply the design change to new production vehicles and although the design can be applied to earlier MY 2004 and 2005 vehicles, Toyota has not announced a safety recall for those vehicles. This investigation is upgraded to an engineering analysis (EA05-010) and will include MY 2005 vehicles.

*3/6/14/05*