



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-059  
Date Opened: 11/07/2005 Date Closed: 05/11/2006  
Principal Investigator: Derek Rinehardt  
Subject: Tire Valve Stem Failures

Manufacturer: Hyundai Motor Company  
Products: 2002 - 2003 Hyundai Sonata  
Population: 73306

**Problem Description:** Consumers are alleging that wheel cover rotation is causing tire valve stems to fail resulting in tire deflation.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	14	43	57
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	35	35

\*Description of Other: Warranty claims (e.g., Goodwill for wheel cover and/or tire repair/replacement)

**Action:** This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed.

Engineer: Derek Rinehardt DR 5/11/06  
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/11/2006

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**Summary:** The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) Opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE), PE05-059, based on nine consumer complaints of tire valve stem failures. The alleged valve stem failures occurred only after tire replacement from the Original Equipment (OE) tire (Michelin 205/65R15 Energy MXV4 Plus) to a "Non-OE" aftermarket tire.

Ninety-eight percent of the aftermarket tires alleged to be associated with the tire valve stem failures were determined to be aftermarket tires produced by brands of Michelin group (BF Goodrich and Uniroyal).

Michelin issued a Technical Bulletin on September 15, 2005 making retailers aware of a potential wheel cover incompatibility with BF Goodrich Traction T/A and Touring T/A Pro Series tires that could cause wheel cover movement and in extreme cases tire valve damage.

Michelin has, additionally, redesigned the BF Goodrich and Uniroyal tires allegedly associated with the valve stem failures, as of the first quarter of calendar year 2006. The previous design version of both tires is no longer available. No complaints have been submitted to ODI for tires manufactured after the introduction of the redesigned tires.

There have been no accidents, injuries or loss of vehicle control attributed to the alleged defect.

Accordingly, this investigation is closed. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist. The agency will continue to monitor complaints and other information relating to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles and take further action in the future if warranted.

DR 5/11/06