



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

ODI PETITION RESUME

Investigation: DP 05-001
Prompted By:
Date Opened: 02/10/2005
Principal Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Subject: INOPERATIVE TAIL LAMPS

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

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

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	52	0	0
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 petition will be evaluated for a grant or deny decision.

Engineer: Cynthia Glass *CDG*
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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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. The petitioner alleges that application of the service brake causes the tail lamp to cease to function. The petitioner also alleges that the left-hand and right-hand tail lamp assemblies receive power from the same circuit board, therefore when one tail lamp fails, both fail.

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