



ODI RESUME

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

Investigation: EA 05-007
Prompted By:
Date Opened: 04/14/2005
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
Subject: Tailgate Support Cables

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.
Products: General Motors 1998-99, & partial year 2000 Silverados & Sierras
Population: 1667937

Problem Description: When the tailgate is in the open (horizontal) position, one or both of the tailgate support cables can break causing the supported individual and/or cargo to drop to the ground without warning.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	40	642	682
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	7	45	52
# Injuries:	8	46	54
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	11560	11560

*Description Of Other: warranty claims for 1998 and 1999 model year vehicles

Action: Open an Engineering Analysis.

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 04/14/2005

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 04/14/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/14/2005

Summary: ODI is opening an Engineering Analysis to further investigate the tailgate support cables installed in 1998, 1999, and partial year 2000 Silverados and Sierras (C/K models).

General Motors is conducting Recall Campaign 04V-129 to replace the tailgate support cables originally installed in certain model year 2000-2004 Sierras and Silverados.

General Motors has advised ODI that the materials used for the tailgate sheathing installed in C/K models had inadvertently changed in October 1999, increasing the propensity for voids in and around the galvanized steel cable strands which can allow moisture to wick among the strands, leading to oxidation and weakening of the strands.

Since ODI initiated RQ04-010 in September 2004, ODI has received 10 additional non-injury complaints in the model year 1998-99 C/K vehicles, but no additional injury complaints. During this same period, GM has reported 564 non-injury and 35 injury complaints.

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FAX to MARK PEACOCK, GM
581-947-2318
TBowman, ODI
4/18/05
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ODI has received 6 injury complaints and 38 non-injury complaints from owners of model year 2000 C/K vehicles. These complaints require further investigation to determine whether these incidents occurred in vehicles within the scope of Campaign 04V-129 or should be added to the injury summary for RQ04-010 (EA05-007).