



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 05-010
Prompted By: PE 05-008
Date Opened: 06/13/2005
Principal Investigator: Peter C. Ong
Subject: Seatbelt Malfunction

Manufacturer: Toyota Motor North America, Inc.
Products: MY 2004-2005 Toyota Sienna Vehicles
Population: 297,790 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The rear 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	3,089	3,089

*Description of other: MY2004-2005 Sienna warranty claims

Action: Open this engineering analysis (EA).

Engineer: Peter C. Ong / *PCO*

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 3,089 warranty repairs that require the replacement of the seatbelt guide assembly. 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 vehicle crash.

Toyota has implemented 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.

PD 6/14/05