



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-046  
Date Opened: 08/26/2005  
Principal Investigator: John Abbott  
Subject: Seat Belt Buckle Malfunction

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation  
Products: 2002 Jeep Liberty  
Population: 209,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Alleged failure of the driver's seat belt buckle to latch, as well as, allegations of difficult to latch and unlatch.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	7		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

\*Description Of Other:

Action: Open A Preliminary Evaluation

Engineer: John Abbott *JAA*

Date: 08/26/2005

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 08/26/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/26/2005

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation has received seven reports alleging the driver's seat belt buckle failed to function properly. Four of the complainants allege the latch plate, or latch tongue, could not be secured inside the buckle. One complainant alleges the buckle was difficult to latch. Two other complaints allege their seat belts were difficult to unlatch. Two of the seven complainants allege a plastic piece was broken inside of the buckle and one other alleges the seat belt cannot be latched unless the "button" is lifted prior to inserting the latch plate.

*6/26  
JAA*