



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-057
Date Opened: 11/21/2006 Date Closed: 03/30/2007
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Seat Belts Webbing Abrading On Frame

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC, Thomas Built Buses, Inc.
Products: Thomas Built Class "A", FS-65, MVP-EF,ER,HDX-EF 1999-2001
Population: 11265

Problem Description: The Seat Belt Webbing is being cut by the sharp edge of the seat brackets.
Bus production dates are 1/23/94 - 4/15/02 (School Buses)

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	19	19
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: This PE is closed. Freightliner will conduct a safety recall. Recall number 07V-142 has been assigned. The recall will include school buses built from 1994 through April 2002.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka *SM*

Date: 03/30/2007

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 03/30/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 03/30/2007

Summary: This investigation was opened after ODI received notification from two fleets alleging the discovery of numerous seat belts with cut webbing as a result of the webbing abrading against an under seat metal bracket. The subject vehicles are class "A" school buses weighing under 10,000 pounds. They are required by federal standard FMVSS 208 to have seat belts.

As a result of this investigation, Freightliner will conduct a safety recall to inspect all affected buses for seat belt chafing, and will replace damaged belts as needed. Also, the seat belt retainer strip will be modified or replaced to prevent future chafing.

Freightliner expanded the scope of the recall (beyond the original investigation population) to include approximately 10,251 additional buses having gross vehicle weight ratings greater than 10,000 lbs. They determined that these buses are also susceptible to the chafing action. There is no federal requirement for seat belts in school buses weighing over 10,000 pounds. However, some customers have ordered seat belts and some states have requirements for seat belts. Therefore, freightliner has agreed to address those buses even though there is no applicable federal standard.

The recall action take on by Freightliner resolves the issues raised by this investigation. Accordingly, this investigation is closed.