



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 06-009
Date Opened: 12/14/2006 Date Closed: 04/18/2007
Principal Investigator: Peter Ong
Subject: Fuel Tank Leakage

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.
Products: 2001-2004 Pontiac Aztek/Buick Rendezvous Vehicles
Population: 322,234

Problem Description: Fuel odor and/or fuel leakage at the inlet pipe of the gas tank.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	32	181	213
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	2478	2478

*Description of Other: Warranty claims for fuel tank replacement

Action: Upgrade this Preliminary Evaluation to an Engineering Analysis (EA07-006)

Engineer: Peter C. Ong

Date: 04/18/2007

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper *TZC*

Date: 04/18/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/18/2007

Summary: Certain subject vehicles may exhibit leakage of odor and/or fuel from the lower portion of the fuel tank inlet filler pipe (Inlet Check Valve). The Inlet Check Valve (ICV) and the fuel tank are joined together using a hot plate welding process for plastic parts. GM reports that its analysis of field returned parts show evidence of process variations for different manufacturing periods. These variations produced some ICV to fuel tank joints with "poor melt flow lines."

ODI's analysis of GM's warranty claim data finds more frequent fuel tank replacements in the hotter climate states.

This investigation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA07-006) to further assess this matter.