



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

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 06-008  
Date Opened: 09/05/2006  
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka  
Subject: Failed Tag Axle "Swing Arms"

Manufacturer: Motor Coach Industries, Inc.  
Products: MCI 2000-2003 G4500 Motor Coaches  
Population: 493

Problem Description: Tag Axle Am Failure

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	0	3
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: A Recall Query has been opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka

Date: 09/05/2006

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 09/05/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/05/2006

Summary: On October 20, 2003, MCI filed a defect notification (03V-411) to address cracks located on the tag axle swing arm at the connection to the pivot spindle tube. Four hundred and ninety-three (493) MCI G4500 2000-2003 motor coaches were involved in this recall. MCI's engineering analysis determined that insufficient weld metal and /or weld penetration on the failed components could result in early stress and fatigue cracks at a weld joining the tag axle to the pivot tube assembly.

MCI determined that a field repair which consisted of inspecting and re-welding the tag axle swing arm would correct the potential failure. A small percentage would not be repairable and would need a full replacement of the arms if the cracks were in certain areas on the tag axle arms.

On July 18, 2006, ODI was contacted by a fleet which alleged that they have had three tag axle arms crack and subsequently break in the same area repaired by MCI during the safety recall. (see photo on page 2).

This investigation is opened to examine the effectiveness of the recall and to ascertain if other fleets have had similar incidents on remedied vehicles.

*email  
9/6/06 SA  
GV 9.6.06*

**RQ OPENING PHOTOGRAPH:**

