



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-008

Date Opened: 02/12/2007

Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka

Subject: Restricted Brake Pedal Movement

Manufacturer: Thomas Built Buses, Inc.

Products: Thomas Built School Buses Model Years 2000-2003 HDX

Population: 1500 (Estimated)

Problem Description: These buses are equipped with an electronically adjusted brake foot pedal. When the pedal is adjusted to the lowest position, the brake pedal is restricted from making a full pedal application.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	0	4
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 Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka

Date: 02/12/2007

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd *RB*

Date: 02/12/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/12/2007

Summary: ODI was contacted by the New York DOT who reported several buses failed braking tests when being tested during an annual inspection. The subject school buses are optioned with an adjustable foot pedal positioning device that allows the driver to raise and lower the brake pedal height to suit his/her seating position.

When the lowest pedal position is selected (by a button on the dashboard), it's alleged that the brake pedal bottoms out on the floor, thus preventing a full brake pedal application. This results in a reduction of brake torque at the wheel ends. It is also alleged that a dealer recently corrected one of these units by replacing certain brake pedal components.

An investigation is being opened for further assessment and study of this issue.