



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

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-021  
Date Opened: 04/19/2007  
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman  
Subject: Front Coil Spring Ejection

Manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.  
Products: 1996-1999 Mercedes Benz E-Class  
Population: 137,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Front suspension coil spring support may corrode, flex, and fracture which can eject the front coil spring into the roadway at highway speeds.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	10	0	10
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: Open a Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 04/19/2007

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 04/19/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/19/2007

Summary: Over a two-year period (since March 2005) ODI has received 25 complaints (VOQ) pertaining to 1996-1999 E-Class vehicles alleging that the front suspension coil spring support or "perch" had separated from the vehicle chassis.

Mercedes has provided ODI with information that indicates that vehicle control is not materially affected when the suspension support separates from the vehicle chassis.

ODI is concerned because ten of these reports allege that the coil spring separated completely (was ejected) from the vehicle: two separations occurred when the vehicle was stationary and eight occurred when the vehicle was traveling. An additional thirteen VOQ complaints describe vehicles in which the front suspension support appears to be deteriorating due to the effects of rust, corrosion, and flexing.