



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-025
Date Opened: 05/14/2007
Principal Investigator: Peter Ong
Subject: Trailer Hitch Receiver Failure

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.
Products: MY 2002 C/K 2500 Suburban/Yukon/Silverado/Sierra/Avalanche
Population: 150,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Failure of the factory installed trailer hitch receiver

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

*Description Of Other:

Action: OPEN this Preliminary Evaluation (PE)

Engineer: Peter C. Ong *peo*

Date: 05/14/2007

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 05/14/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/14/2007

Summary: ODI has received four consumer complaints alleging the factory installed (OEM) trailer hitch receiver failed. Two owner reports allege bending/deformation of the pin box area while towing. One owner report alleges welds failed around the pin box area and another report alleges complete weld failure of the pin box leading to a full separation of the trailer from the tow vehicle. In this last report, the trailer safety chain and the emergency brakes were not activated as both safety features were still attached to the two openings in the pin box that broke off with the trailer. No crash or injury resulted as the vehicle and trailer were maneuvering in a storage lot.

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