



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 08-053
Date Opened: 09/12/2008
Principal Investigator: Peter Kivett
Subject: Drag Link Failure

Manufacturer: Volvo Trucks North America
Products: Model Year 2005 Volvo VNL and VN Trucks
Population: 5,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Drag-link failure resulting in a loss of steering control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
Crashes/Fires:	3	0	3
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: Reports submitted to ODI from the federal motor carrier safety administration (FMCSA).

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Peter Kivett 

Date: 09/12/2008

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 09/12/2008

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/12/2008

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received two reports from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) alleging two separate crashes involving Model Year 2005 Volvo VNL and VN trucks. The crashes were allegedly caused by a separation of the steering drag-link.

An ODI investigator contacted the fleets identified by FMCSA And learned of another alleged drag-link failure which also resulted in a crash. In this third crash, the Indiana police reported the primary cause of the crash was attributed to a steering malfunction which caused the vehicle to swerve on the interstate and subsequently roll onto its passenger side. ODI has also received a complaint (VOQ) with similar allegations, for a total of four alleged crashes.

Continue on page 2

ODI's review of the matter indicates the drag-links may be failing at the attachment to the steering arm. This type of failure results in a total loss of steering control. The drag links are "maintenance free" and it's unclear at this time as to the proper time intervals for steering linkage inspections on the subject trucks. A Preliminary Evaluation is being opened to fully examine the allegations.