



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-061
Date Opened: 10/16/2008
Principal Investigator: Chris Lash
Subject: Timing Chain failure stall

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.
Products: MY 2000 -2002 Saturn L-Series (L61 Eng). Built before May 2002
Population: 159,559

Problem Description: The timing chain can fail resulting in engine stall with no restart.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	178	745	923
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	2125

*Description of Other: Timing Chain Warranty Claims

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Christopher Lash *CL*
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: On June 6, 2006, ODI opened an investigation of timing chain failure resulting in engine stall while driving with no restart in approximately 20,514 model year (MY) 2001 Saturn L-series vehicles equipped with 2.2l engines (L61) built from November 2000 through February 2001 (EA06-009). The vehicles built during those months exhibited higher failure rates than similarly equipped vehicles built before and after. GM introduced a new timing chain design in production in May 2002. ODI closed its investigation after GM initiated a safety recall on November 7, 2007 (Recall 07V-519).

On May 22, 2008, the North Carolina Consumers Council (NCCC) submitted a defect petition to ODI requesting the expansion of Recall 07V-519 to include all MY 1999 through 2003 Saturn L-series vehicles with 2.2l engines using the same timing chain design as the recalled population. The petition states that the NCCC continues to receive complaints from consumers that have had a timing chain fail in vehicles built outside the production range covered by the recall. The petition also notes that ODI has continued to receive complaints.

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Since the closing of EA06-009 ODI has received 80 new complaints from consumers who had a timing chain fail in a MY 2000 through 2002 Saturn L-series with the 2.2l engine that were not covered by Recall 07V-519 and were built prior to the timing belt change in May 2002. The complaints describe the same failure mode as the recalled population where the timing chain can break suddenly and without warning, resulting in engine damage and loss of motive power.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the frequency and trend of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.

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