



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 08-068
Date Opened: 12/03/2008
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka
Subject: Improper Handrail Installation

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC
Products: 2005-2008 Thomas Built C2 School Buses
Population: 2500 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Passenger drawstring may catch on handrail, resulting in child being dragged by the bus.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5	0	5
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) is opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka Date: 12/03/2008
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd Date: 12/03/2008
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter Date: 12/03/2008

Summary: ODI was informed by a school district that during a "New Bus" inspection of the handrails, it was discovered that the handrail was mounted too close to the bottom step and failed the "Drawstring Test." (The drawstring test was developed in the early 90's to ensure that children's drawstrings would not get caught in the handrail while exiting the bus.) Several other new buses were inspected and they also failed the test. Freightliner is confirming the problem.

Given ODI's prior history with this issue, ODI intends to open a PE and further evaluate the safety concerns. Of particular concern is the "Scope" of the improper handrail installations.