



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-069
Date Opened: 12/09/2009
Principal Investigator: Nate Seymour
Subject: Air Compressor Discharge Line Failure

Manufacturer: Mack Trucks, Inc
Products: 2008 Mack Trucks CHU/CXU
Population: 500 (estimated)

Problem Description: The air compressor discharge line may leak or blow off the compressor head resulting in insufficient air pressure for the brakes and other air operated components.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other:	40	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL

Description of Other: ODI received EWR field reports pertaining to a number of trucks that experienced the alleged defect.

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

Engineer: Nate Seymour
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd MB
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 12/09/2008
Date: 12/09/2008
Date: 12/09/2008

Summary:

ODI's routine review of TSB's revealed a problem with the discharge line "blowing" off the air compressor on certain Mack trucks. Separation of the air line would prohibit replenishment of the air brake system. At some point, the truck would become disabled until each wheel is manually released by a mechanic. Vehicles in this condition must have the spring brakes "caged" in order to be towed or have the repair conducted in place. A vehicle of this size has the potential to create a significant traffic disruption.

Multiple trucking companies (fleets) were behind the field reports submitted by Mack. The trucking companies were contacted and it was revealed that approximately 30% of the fleets' vehicles had experienced the alleged defect.

Given the high failure rate among these fleets, ODI is concerned that a collision with a disabled subject vehicle may result. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to further evaluate the safety risk.