



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

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-047  
Date Opened: 09/29/2009  
Principal Investigator: Sonny Murianka  
Subject: Throttle Gets Stuck On Floor Plate

Manufacturer: Freightliner LLC  
Products: 2007-2010 Thomas Buses EF  
Population: 2,500 (estimated)

Problem Description: Upon "full" pedal application, the bottom edge of the accelerator pedal may become wedged on the metal floor covering and the vehicle may continue to accelerate.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5	5	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: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is opened.

Engineer: Sonny Murianka  
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd *RB*  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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### Summary:

A fleet supervisor submitted a VOQ on a Model Year 2008 Thomas Built "EF" school bus and reported that the accelerator pedal will stick and won't release. This phenomenon occurred on one of the fleet buses and the driver had to free the pedal by hand. An inspection shows that the pedal pivots on an arm and can be pushed down from the top which would extend the bottom of the pedal outwards towards the driver. Or, the pedal can be pushed downward at the base which causes the top portion of the pedal to extend up. Pushing at the pedal's base will cause it to stick at the metal scuff plate (on the floor) without releasing. This causes a stuck throttle at the full open position. The reporting fleet currently has twelve MY 2008 and two MY 2010 buses, all of which may experience a stuck pedal.

A second fleet was notified and they were able to duplicate the problem on three of their buses.

This investigation is opened to further evaluate this issue.