U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation:	EQ 10-003
Prompted by:	
Date Opened:	04/01/2010
Principal Investigator:	Alexander Ansley
Subject:	IMMI Seat Cushion Locking Mechanisms

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer:	INDIANA MILLS & MANUFACTURING, INC.
Products:	School Bus Seats manufactured between 10/6/09 & 1/25/10
Population:	2,296
Problem Description:	Certain IMMI school bus seats, after installation, fail to conform to FMVSS No. 222 by containing a seat cushion locking mechanism that may become misaligned.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open EQ

Summary:

On February 1, 2010, Indiana Mills & Manufacturing, Inc. (IMMI) notified NHTSA that it sold certain school bus seats, manufactured between October 6, 2009 and January 25, 2010, and that these seats did not meet FMVSS No. 222, "School bus passenger seating and crash protection", when installed in a school bus application. IMMI stated that certain seat cushion locking mechanisms are capable of being misaligned during vehicle assembly or after the vehicle is in use. A seat cushion with a misaligned locking mechanism might not be able to meet the requirements of FMVSS No. 222 as it would not allow the cushion to remain attached to the seat during a certain threshold of upward force. Should a school bus seat cushion become detached from the seat during vehicle operation, personal injury is possible to the seat occupant(s).

IMMI did not supply a Noncompliance Information Report for this issue, stating that the noncompliance only exists after seat installation into a school bus, but did supply a letter explaining the issue at hand and listing the 14 customers that purchased these seats. The purpose of this EQ is to write to these companies, notify them of this noncompliance in any vehicles they manufactured, and ensure timely and thorough safety recalls are conducted where appropriate.