U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

Authentic US Government Information
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
uses a *digital certificate* to ensure
the content has remained unchanged.

Investigation: PE 10-014
Date Opened: 04/30/2010
Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman
Subject: Potential for Hitch to Fracture

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: CEQUENT TOWING PRODUCTS, INC.
Products: Ball Mount Hitch
Population: 1,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: ODI is assessing the merits of allegations that hitches may fracture.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

Summary:

In October 2008, ODI received three (essentially duplicate) complaints (VOQ 10247272, 73, & 75) informing the Agency of a fatal crash that occurred in Florida on May 7, 2006. ODI's review of the complaint-provided photographic evidence did not support opening an investigation at that time.

On April 23, 2010, ODI received a copy of the Plaintiff's Motion filed on February 12, 2010. Based on the allegations summarized and/or implied in this Motion, ODI is now seeking further information about the family of hitches represented by the hitch that was involved in the above-referenced crash. ODI will conduct a Preliminary Evaluation and fully assess the facts.