



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 10-021
Date Opened: 06/28/2010
Investigator: Lawrence Hershman **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Richard Boyd
Subject: Mazda3 Loss of Power Steering Assist

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: MAZDA MOTOR CORP
Products: 2007-2009 Mazda3
Population: 293,787 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Allegations that a loss of power steering assist requires excessive steering input to maintain control of the vehicle.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	33	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	3	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

Summary:

ODI has received 33 complaints alleging steering problems with the subject vehicles. The Mazda3 uses an electrically actuated hydraulic power steering system to reduce the physical effort required of drivers to steer the vehicle. The majority of complaints allege loss of power steering assist while driving, requiring excessive force on the driver's part to maintain control, or in some cases causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle. Three of the complaints allege that the loss of steering control caused a crash. Additionally Mazda has issued technical service bulletins involving one or more of the subject model year vehicles related to power steering assist problems.