U.S. Department of Transportation

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**

# ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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**Investigation:** PE 11-008
**Date Opened:** 03/29/2011 **Date Closed:** 01/30/2012
**Investigator:** Ric Willard **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
**Approver:** Frank Borris
**Subject:** Caterpillar C7 Hose Leak

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** CATERPILLAR INC.
**Products:** 2006 - 2011 Caterpillar C7 Engine
**Population:** 3,873

**Problem Description:** Failing CGI coolant hoses may lose coolant and cause school buses to be stranded en route.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Complaints:** | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| **Crashes/Fires:** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Injury Incidents:** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Fatality Incidents:** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Other*:** | 0 | 0 | 0 |

***Description of Other:**

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** This PE is closed. See safety recall (11E-051).

**Summary:**

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received 1 fleet complaint (involving 8 incidents on 6 vehicles) alleging that the Clean Gas Induction (CGI) coolant lines on affected vehicles had developed leaks resulting in a vehicle stall.

Caterpillar conducted system testing and determined that coolant in the subject engines may become increasingly acidic over time, which may result in damage to the inner walls of the coolant hoses. In at least four (4) cases this has resulted in stranded school buses due to coolant loss.

Caterpillar (CAT) submitted a recall notice on December 2, 2011. CAT's announcement of a safety recall on this matter addresses ODI's concerns. Coolant will be checked and changed more frequently to prevent in-field pH degradation and coolant hoses damaged from this issue will be replaced under warranty.

The subject vehicles have been recalled, therefore this investigation is closed.

The ODI report cited above can be reviewed at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/complaints under the following identification (ODI) number: 10446420