



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 12-007
Date Opened: 03/21/2012
Investigator: Ric Willard
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: MCI Driveshaft Safety Loop Failures

Date Closed: 09/20/2012
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: MOTOR COACH INDUSTRIES, INC
Products: 1992-2012 MCI D Series Buses with Steerable Tag Axle
Population: 806

Problem Description: In the event of driveshaft failure, the separated drive shaft is not adequately contained and may result in a loss of vehicle control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|------------------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints: | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| Crashes/Fires: | 2 | 1 | 2** |
| Injury Incidents: | 2 | 1 | 2** |
| Number of Injuries: | 50 | 0 | 50 |
| Fatality Incidents: | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of Fatalities: | 2 | 0 | 2 |

** Total eliminates duplicates received by ODI and manufacturer.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA12-007).

Summary:

ODI has identified certain MCI coaches with powertrain configurations that may allow a driveshaft separated at the rearward universal joint to escape the guardian structure of the steerable tag axle and damage steering and braking components. The damaged components may increase the risk of a loss of vehicle control. The subject coaches include 806 model year 1992 through 2012 MCI D and E series motor coaches with steerable tag axles.

This Preliminary Evaluation is being upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA12-007) to further study the alleged defect and to determine if a safety defect exists.

The ODI report cited above can be viewed at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/complaints: ODI Number 10447575.