U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

NHTSA

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Investigation: PE 12-024
Date Opened: 08/17/2012
Investigator: Robert Young **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Scott Yon
Subject: Aux. Brake Failure - Adaptive Equipment

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Automotive Innovations, Inc.
Products: Automotive Innovations Electronic Gas/Brake
Population: 500 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Emergency brake system not equipped with a malfunction warning device

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	1	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a PE

Summary:

The subject electronic gas/brake system allows vehicle operation by driver's hands instead of their feet. The accelerator and brake pedals are remotely operated near the steering wheel. This gas/brake system is equipped with a redundant brake system so that failures of the primary brake system do not result in a complete loss of brakes. Prior to driving, the operator is instructed to check the redundant system condition during a pre-drive systems check. However, following the system check, an inoperative redundant system may not be identified due to the inability of the pre-drive check to fully evaluate the entire brake system's readiness. A minor crash occurred when both the primary and redundant systems failed on a vehicle. Subsequently, it was discovered that the back-up system was malfunctioning before the crash occurred. The driver was unaware of the failed systems.

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