



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 14-013  
**Date Opened:** 05/19/2014  
**Investigator:** Stephen Mchenry                      **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt  
**Approver:** Jennifer Timian  
**Subject:** Clutch Interlock Switch Malfunction

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Chrysler Group LLC  
**Products:** 2004-06 Dodge Ram 2500 & 3500 with manual transmissions  
**Population:** 110,000 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** A malfunctioning clutch interlock switch may allow the vehicle to be started while in gear.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	3	TBD	TBD
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	1	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Fatalities:</b>	1	TBD	TBD

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

**Summary:**

ODI has received three vehicle owner complaints (VOQs) alleging incidents of engine crank or start when the clutch was not engaged due to clutch interlock switch failure. The complaints involved 1 model year (MY) 2004 Dodge Ram 2500 truck and 2 MY 2006 Dodge Ram 3500 trucks equipped with manual transmissions. One complaint (VOQ 10566076) involved an incident that occurred when a child was able to enter the vehicle and start the ignition without depressing the clutch. The vehicle then moved forward striking another child resulting in a fatality. A second complaint (10533996) described an incident that occurred when the engine was cranked without the clutch pedal depressed while an individual was standing directly in front of the vehicle performing work under the hood. The clutch interlock failed to prevent the engine from cranking, which resulted in vehicle movement into the pedestrian performing work under the hood. The individual was knocked to the ground, but did not report any injuries.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to asses the scope, frequency and safety-related consequences of the alleged defect.

VOQs associated with the opening of this investigation are: 10585619, 10566076 and 10533996.