



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 14-023  
**Date Opened:** 07/22/2014  
**Investigator:** Emily Reichard                      **Reviewer:** Scott Yon  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Seat Belt Buckle Electrical Malfunction

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Hyundai Motor Company  
**Products:** 2006-2008 Hyundai Sonata  
**Population:** 394,000 (Estimated)

**Problem Description:** An electrical circuit (sensor) inside the seat belt buckle assembly may experience a failure leading to a malfunction of the safety belt pretensioner. Depending on the functionality of the airbag deployment algorithm, the airbag may not deploy as designed, or may not deploy at all.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	83	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>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Fatalities:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Other*:</b>	0	Confidential	Confidential

\*Description of Other: Manufacturer supplied Early Warning Reporting (EWR) field report data

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened.

### Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 83 owner reports and additional EWR data from the manufacturer alleging that the seat belt buckle assembly failed and needed to be repaired and/or replaced on model year 2006-2008 Hyundai Sonata vehicles. In the majority of the reports the airbag warning light illuminated, which acted to notify the driver that a fault was present. The reports also indicate that either the front driver and/or passenger safety buckle assemblies may be affected. Depending on the nature of the failure and the airbag deployment algorithm, the seat belt pretensioner and/or the airbag function may be affected.

ODI has opened this investigation to further analyze the scope, frequency and consequence of the alleged incidents.

ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at [www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID](http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID) under the following identification (ODI) numbers: 10256002, 10258877, 10283190, 10283762, 10286294, 10290196, 10297700, 10304481, 10306317, 10310464, 10315909, 10330087, 10355606, 10356598, 10360380, 10369825, 10370350, 10370657, 10377062, 10378503, 10399875, 10402904, 10404406, 10405598, 10408660, 10410215, 10411792, 10415672, 10426896, 10428859, 10428991, 10436650, 10441258, 10444646, 10445962, 10447518, 10455086, 10458612, 10461322, 10471657, 10475442, 10489290, 10490497, 10490635, 10493520, 10496701, 10499327, 10500137, 10508117, 10510286, 10510932, 10510952, 10511401, 10511737, 10536182, 10541982, 10542434, 10548434, 10550081, 10550767, 10552361, 10552865, 10553099, 10554292, 10555471, 10556494, 10556625,

10556923, 10558372, 10558445, 10560756, 10561273, 10566729, 10569331, 10573166, 10573304, 10575493,  
10576524, 10578400, 10593489, 10595062, 10598225, 10607865