



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: DP 15-006
Prompted by: Owner Letter
Date Opened: 09/28/2015
Investigator: Nate Seymour
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Volvo Ride Quality
Reviewer: Bruce York-B

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Volvo Trucks North America
Products: 2013 - 2016 Volvo 780
Population: 16,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The truck cab may sway contributing to driver/co-driver fatigue and/or loss of vehicle control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	TBD	3
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	0
Injury Incidents:	1	TBD	1
Number of Injuries:	1	TBD	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Other*:	6	Confidential	Confidential

***Description of Other:** Petition Letter, EWR Field Reports

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This DP has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened this Defect Petition (DP) assessment in response to a defect petition letter received from the owner of a 2015 Volvo VNL 780 tractor.

The owner also submitted two Vehicle Owner Questionnaires (VOQ) since March 2015. One additional VOQ has been received from the owner of a 2016 Volvo 780. Two additional drivers have been interviewed by ODI who also claimed fatigue due to swaying of the cab. One of the interviewed drivers stated the truck's Crash Avoidance System engaged while rounding a corner on a 4-lane divided highway at a speed of 40 mph and attributed it to the cab sway. He suspects the Crash Avoidance System momentarily de-rated the vehicle for no apparent reason. All of the subject trucks are equipped with a spring/shock front suspension verses air ride. In all cases the cab sway was evident from date of first use.

All complainants allege uncontrollable swaying of the cab. They claim this will adversely affect handling in poor weather conditions, possibly resulting in a crash. The drivers allege over time, this condition may lead to fatigue and degraded operator safety. Additionally, one owner alleged a back injury caused by the sleeper bottoming out due to a failure of the cab air bags.

ODI has identified Early Warning Reporting (EWR) field reports on 2013-2016 Volvo Trucks in which the concern is cab lean. These have yet to be verified as related to the petitioner and other driver allegations but in photos provided by the petitioner and through interviews, cab lean and air bag tilting were found while the trucks were parked.

ODI has opened this DP in order to determine whether to grant or deny the petition to investigate this issue.