



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 15-022
Date Opened: 06/09/2015
Investigator: Paul Simmons **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Front Suspension Ball Joint Separation

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Mazda Motor Corp.
Products: 2007-2008 Mazda CX-9
Population: 54,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Front suspension lower ball joint separates while driving, resulting in a loss of vehicle control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

*Description of Other: EWR field report data

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received six (6) complaints (VOQs) alleging incidents of front suspension LBJ separation in MY 2007 through 2008 Mazda CX-9 vehicles. The reports appear to show an increasing trend. One of the separations allegedly occurred at 40 mph and the other 5 incidents occurred at speeds between 0 and 20 mph. The first VOQ was received in October 2013, followed by 2 reports in late 2014 and 3 reports in the first 5 months of 2015.

Four of the VOQs are from states using high volumes of road salts ("salt states") which, for purposes of this investigation, include: Connecticut, District of Columbia, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin. The other VOQs were from northern Virginia, which borders the "salt state" region, and South Carolina. ODI also identified EWR field report data related to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.

A preliminary investigation is being opened to assess the scope, frequency, and safety consequence of the alleged defect.

The six VOQs associated with this investigation are: 10717510, 10714469, 10695142, 10668978, 10640541, and 10546535.