



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 18-015
Date Opened: 12/17/2018
Investigator: Ryan Rahimpour **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Lap seat belts fail to latch

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Navistar, Inc., IC CORPORATION
Products: 2011 - 16 Navistar IC school buses with AM Safe lap belts
Population: 83,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Lap seat belt metal insert plastic cover breaks, preventing metal insert from latching in buckle.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	TBD	1
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	0
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	0
Other*:	1	TBD	1

*Description of Other: Some Florida school bus fleets also confirm the issue.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a complaint from a school bus fleet in the state of New Jersey indicating seat belt failures in their model year 2015 school buses, built by Navistar, and equipped with Am Safe lap belts. The complaint states that the lap belt metal insert plastic cover breaks and prevents the insert from latching with the buckle. This fleet has replaced over 50 percent of the lap belts in their 8 buses. ODI reached out to Florida state school bus fleets to see if they had experienced the same problem since Florida is one of 6 states in the country requiring lap belts in their school buses. The state of Florida Director of Public School Bus Transportation contacted 20 municipalities and found maintenance records from 16 of the 20 fleets confirming seat belt buckle inserts broken in a similar fashion as those from New Jersey.

The following VOQ number is associated with the issues discussed in this opening resume: 11127877

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to evaluate the alleged defect conditions in the subject vehicles.