



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 20-015
Date Opened: 09/21/2020
Investigator: Nate Seymour **Reviewer:** Bruce York-B
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Quarter Fender Failures

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: PACCAR Incorporated
Products: 2017 - 2019 model year Peterbilt and Kenworth Vehicles
Population: 60,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: The quarter fender may fracture or separate from the subject vehicle increasing the risk of injury or property damage.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	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: Field reports including multiple fleets with multiple failures.

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is opening this Preliminary Evaluation (PE) on model year (MY) 2017 - 2019 Peterbilt and Kenworth vehicles equipped with quarter fenders. ODI has received reports with allegations of quarter fender failures resulting in road debris or collateral damage to the subject vehicle. Peterbilt and Kenworth vehicles are highly customizable, with several options for fenders.

Quarter fenders are approximately two feet by two feet square and can be made of either plastic or metal. In some events the plastic fenders have fractured leaving only the mounting tube. The separated pieces of plastic or metal fenders pose a safety risk to both the subject vehicle and other motorists and pedestrians who may be struck by the separated fender.

ODI is aware of one (1) consumer complaint alleging multiple separations. One such separation reportedly damaged the air brake system. ODI is aware of additional fleet reports of quarter fender failures.

During complainant interviews, ODI learned that the alleged defect in the plastic fenders may be limited to a specific production period. Fleet interviews indicated that only factory equipment fenders fractured, and replacements performed better.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine the frequency and severity of this failure mechanism and understand the conditions that might influence this failure on the subject vehicles.

The ODI report cited above can be reviewed at:
<http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID> using complaint identification number 11349017.