



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

Investigation: DP24004
Prompted By: Defect Petition
Date Opened: 08/26/2024
Investigator: Nate Seymour **Reviewer:** Joshua Neff
Approver: Tanya Topka
Subject: Semi-Trailer Side Underride Guards

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Generic Manufacturer
Products: Van-Type Semi-Trailers (all years)
Population: 2,450,000 (Estimated)
Problem Description: A standard van-type semi-trailer does not offer side underride protection to motorists.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	EWR D&I	Other	Total	EWR Field Reports
All Incidents:	2	0	2	1	5	0
Crashes/Fires:	2	0	2	0	4	0
Injury Incidents:	1	0	0	0	1	0
Number of Injuries:	1	0	0	0	1	0
Fatality Incidents:	1	0	2	0	3	0
Number of Fatalities:	1	0	2	0	3	0

Description of Other:
 Petition

ACTION/SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open Defect Petition

Summary:
 The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a petition dated July 3, 2024, requesting an investigation of all van-type semi-trailers due to collisions with passenger vehicles and other

vulnerable road users (pedestrians, bicyclists, or motorcyclists) resulting in significant injuries or death due to the lack of side underride guards (SUG). No single trailer manufacturer or equipment supplier was identified. The petition itself can be reviewed at [NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov) under ODI Number 11599188.

Currently, a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) requiring side underride guards on semi-trailers does not exist. The petitioner contend that failure to include side underride guards equates to a safety defect in the semi-trailer's design, construction and performance. ODI was petitioned in 2021 for this same topic and, after evaluation, denied the request (DP21004). In support of their request, the petitioner states that evidence of SUG effectiveness to prevent fatalities and mitigate serious injuries has continued to accumulate since the denial of DP21004. Furthermore the petitioner alleges that despite a high severity of risk resulting in frequent severe or fatal injuries from side underride crashes, NHTSA has taken no action to investigate recalling of semi-trailers without SUGs.

This defect petition has been opened to evaluate the issue and determine whether to grant or deny the petition.