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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 03-013
Prompted By: PE 03-015
Date Opened: 08/13/2003
Principal Investigator: JOHN ABBOTT
Subject: ENGINE COOLING FAN BLADE SEPARATION

Manufacturer: VOLKSWAGEN OF AMERICA, INC.; WINNEBAGO INDUSTRIES, INC.
Products: 1996 THROUGH 2003 WINNEBAGO RIALTA ON VW EUROVAN CHASSIS
Population: 9,000

Problem Description: Separation of the blades from the engine's electronic cooling fan.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5	107	112
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	18	18

*Description Of Other: Fan blade separation in VW Eurovan vehicles; 15 with Siemens fan, 3 with Bosch fan.

Action: Upgrade to Engineering Analysis

Engineer: *John Abbott* Date: *08/13/2003*
Div. Chief: *Thomas Z. Cooper* Date: *08/13/2003*
Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter* Date: *08/13/2003*

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE)03-015 on April 15, 2003 based on three reports alleging that fan blades separated from the engine electronic cooling fan. All three vehicles were Winnebago Rialta class "C" motor homes built on a Volkswagen Eurovan chassis. During the PE investigation, Volkswagen provided 125 additional reports of fan failures. The additional reports included 107 reports on Rialta vehicles (all using a Siemens manufactured cooling fan) and 18 reports on Eurovan vehicles (15 using Siemens fans and 3 using Bosch fans).

An Engineering Analysis investigation has been opened for further study.

8/15/03