



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 04-012

Date Opened: 11/22/2004

Date Closed: 04/14/2005

Principal Investigator: Tom Bowman

Subject: Tailgate Support Cable(s) Break

Manufacturer: General Motors Corp.

Products: General Motors 1998 - 2004 Sonoma and S10

Population: 1433901

**Problem Description:** When the tailgate is in the open (horizontal) position, one or both of the tailgate support cables can break, causing the supported individual and/or cargo to drop to the ground without warning.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	125	624	749
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	15	14	29
# Injuries:	15	14	29
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

\*Description of Other:

Action: Upgrade RQ04-012. An Engineering Analysis (EA05-008) has been opened.

Engineer: Thomas Bowman

Date: 04/15/2005

Div. Chief: Richard Boyd

Date: 04/15/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/15/2005

**Summary:** ODI is upgrading RQ04-012 and opening an EA to investigate the tailgate support cables installed in 1998 - 2004 model year Sonoma and S10 model vehicles.

General Motors is conducting Recall Campaign 04V-129 to replace the tailgate support cables originally installed in certain model year 2000-2004 Sierras and Silverados and certain model year 2002 -2004 Avalanches and Escalade EXT's (C/K models).

General Motors has advised ODI that the tailgate support cables installed in the subject vehicles were fabricated using identical or similar sheathing material as the recalled vehicles. However, General Motors has advised ODI that Sonoma and S-10 vehicles differ from C/K models in several ways: the vehicle height is lower; the tailgate displacement (drop) when not supported by the cables is smaller and the tailgate comes to rest at a less severe tip angle when not supported by cables; the tailgate mass is smaller; and the size, payload, and usage characteristics are less demanding than C/K model vehicles. GM also stated that Sonoma and S-10 warranty claim information indicates a lower claim count and a lower claim rate than recalled C/K models.

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KAB 4/18/05

Notwithstanding the above information, ODI has received an additional 73 non-injury complaints and 10 injury complaints on the subject vehicles during RQ04-012 (since November 2004 to date) which justifies opening an Engineering Analysis to further investigate this issue.