



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 06-013  
Date Opened: 03/16/2006  
Principal Investigator: Nate Seymour  
Subject: Wheel Separation

Manufacturer: Volvo Trucks North America, Inc.  
Products: 2004-2006 VHD Volvo trucks  
Population: 50,000 (estimated)

Problem description: The clamp load which secures the aluminum wheels to the truck may be compromised. This could result in a wheel separation.

### Failure report summary

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	1	0	1
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	0	0

\*Description of other: \*EWR data indicates a possible wheel issue

Action: A preliminary evaluation has been opened to investigate wheel separation and loss of clamp load.

Engineer: Nate Seymour *NS*  
Div. Chief: Richard Boyd  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. Demeter

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Summary: NHTSA received a complaint reporting the complete separation of an aluminum dual wheel assembly and multiple losses of clamp load. ODI reviewed its early warning reporting data and found an unusual increase in wheel related reports. The EWR data is indicative that a problem may exist but it is not conclusive.

Volvo has issued Service Program (SP) 771-003: aluminum disc wheel spacer removal, in an attempt to address the issue. Volvo has indicated that thermal distortion of a plastic spacer located between the inner and outer wheels has caused some vehicles to experience a loss of clamp load.

ODI is concerned that if indeed the spacer is the cause of the wheels loosening, a service program may be inadequate. ODI believes that wheel separation on highway vehicles is a serious matter.

ODI has opened this PE to investigate the wheel end components which contribute to maintaining clamp load on the wheel assembly.

*NS*  
3/16/06