ODI RESUME

INVESTIGATION: EA94-015 DATE CLOSED: 12 -OCT-94
SUBJECT : Inadvertent Air Bag Deployments
PROMPTED BY : PE93-095

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: Michael Lee M J Lee
MANUFACTURER : Volvo
MODEL(S) : 200, 700 and 900 series
MODEL YEAR(S) : 1990-1993
VEHICLE POPULATION: 268,479

SYNOPSIS: Complaints allege that the driver-side air bag deployed without a vehicle collision.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

BASIS:	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	5	13	18
ACCIDENTS:	0	0	0
INJ ACCID:	0	0	0
# INJURIES:	4	6	10
FAT ACCID:	0	0	0
# FATALS:	0	0	0
OTHER:	0	4	4

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER: Minor collision may have caused air bag to deploy.
NOTE: Of 18 complaints, 6 are unknown injury and 2 are no injury.

ACTION: Close this Engineering Analysis (Recall No. 94V-185).

BRCH CHF Thomas Hoffman DIV CHF Louis Brown Jr. Acting OFC DIR Louis Brown Jr.
10/11/94 DATE 10/12/94 DATE 10/12/94 DATE

SUMMARY: ODI is aware of a total of 18 incidents of non-crash air bag deployments on the subject vehicles. It appears that in majority of the incidents, flood water may have damaged the sensor unit (located under the driver's seat) and caused an electrical short circuit which then activated the air bag system. In at least 10 of the 18 incidents the air bag deployed while starting the vehicle. In a letter dated September 27, 1994, Volvo stated that it will initiate a safety recall (Campaign No. 94V-185) which will inform all subject vehicle owners not to start the vehicle if the vehicle has been subjected to flood conditions.

10/12/94 Stephen Kratz (fax)