



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

ODI RESUME

INVESTIGATION: EA01-018
 DATE OPENED: 20-Dec-2001 DATE CLOSED: DEC 9 2002
 SUBJECT: Alleged Seat Belt Anchorage Separation
 PROMPTED BY: PE01-023
 PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: Christopher J. Santucci

MANUFACTURER: General Motors Corporation (GM)
 MODEL(S): Tahoe, Yukon, Yukon Denali, Escalade with 60/40 Split folding 2nd row bench seat (117.5" Wheelbase GMT420)
 MODEL YEAR(S): 1995-1999 (Tahoe, Yukon); 1998-2000 (Yukon Denali, Escalade)
 VEHICLE POPULATION: 794,982

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: 2nd row passenger-side seat belt release buckle anchor allegedly detached from seat frame during a side impact resulting in loss of restraint for occupant.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | MANUFACTURER | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| COMPLAINTS: | 1 | 1 | 1* |
| CRASHES: | 1 | 1 | 1* |
| INJ CRASHES: | 1 | 1 | 1* |
| # INJURIES: | 1 | 1 | 1* |
| FAT CRASHES | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| # FATALS | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| OTHER | | | |

* ODI and GM have received the same complaint

ACTION: The Engineering Analysis (EA) has been closed.
 ENGINEER: [Signature] DIV CHF: [Signature] OFC DIR: [Signature]
 DATE: 12/9/02 DATE: 12/9/02 DATE: 12-9-02

SUMMARY: ODI has not received any other complaints alleging seat belt anchor separation in the subject vehicles. Both static and dynamic testing has been performed on the seat belt anchor. The static tests of the anchor assembly show that it is capable of sustaining loads comparable to those imposed in GM's testing. A dynamic test program was developed to generate a load profile that would be comparable to that of a typical side impact (see FMVSS 214). These dynamic sled tests did not result in anchor separation.

In light of these results, as well as the absence of any complaints other than the one involving the complaint vehicle, the agency has not found a safety-related defect to exist at this time. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist. The agency will take further action if warranted by the circumstances.

#

VRT
12/9/02