



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE07-048
Date Opened: 09/21/2007 Date Closed: 01/23/08
Principal Investigator: Stephen McHenry
Subject: Wheel Failure

Manufacturer: Sevas Wheels
Products: Sevas S-10 Aftermarket wheels
Population: 600 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Wheel may fail and cause a loss of vehicle control. In addition, shrapnel from a failed wheel can puncture vehicle sheet metal and may cause secondary damage to other vehicle systems/components, including the fuel system.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	1	4
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

Action: This Preliminary Investigation has been upgraded to Engineering Analysis EA08-003.

Engineer: Stephen McHenry *SMH*
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 01/23/2008
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Summary: Since PE07-048 was opened, ODI has received information about three additional S-10 wheel failures. These include two complaints of fractured rims and one complaint of a cracked rim.

To date, the manufacturer has not provided a complete and satisfactory response to ODI's request for information related to the alleged defect or provided information about any complaints or claims that were not already known to ODI. The manufacturer has advised ODI that distribution of the subject wheels to retailers was suspended in October 2007. The production volume given in this resume is an estimate from the manufacturer and may include wheels currently held in the distribution chain, wheels in retailer inventory and wheels that were sold into service. Actual sales volumes are unknown at this time. While the manufacturer has indicated finding evidence of impact damage in some wheels involved in complaints or claims, no information has been provided to ODI related to such claims or analyses.

This Investigation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis to continue to investigate the alleged defect in the subject wheels and to continue efforts to obtain full and complete responses to ODI Information Requests from Sevas.

The End