

Consumer Products
Patent Searches
Defect Reports
Medical Products
Corporate Information
Legislative Information
Computer Database Searches

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a
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Providing Quality and Cost-Effective Technical Research for Over 20 Years

Internet Site Information

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

**400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590**

This internet site allows the user to discover a portion of the research information that is available from NHTSA that should be reviewed for vehicle products liability cases. This site does not include all of the research information available at NHTSA that should be obtained for a vehicle case.

Internet Address- <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

Internet Site Updated- Usually daily
Some earlier information added periodically

Research Summary-

Advantages:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Vehicle and Equipment Recalls | (all years) |
| Various Defect Investigations Cases | (1972 to the present) |
| Engineering Analyses (EA) | |
| Preliminary Evaluations (PE) | |
| Defect Petitions (DP) | |
| Some Compliance Tests | (most years) |
| New Car Assessment (NCAP) Tests | (all years) |
| Other Crash Tests | (all years) |
| Indexes of Consumer Complaints to NHTSA | (1981-present) |
| Indexes of Manufacturer's Service Bulletins | (1981-present) |
| Press Releases and Notices of Meetings | (recent years only) |
| Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard Interpretations | (approx. 1971 to the present) |
| Recent "Hot" Rulemaking/Publications/Studies | (recent years only) |

Disadvantages-

- * **Databases not designed for Attorneys, Paralegals, or Expert Witnesses**
(databases designed for Consumers)
- * **No guarantee of accuracy**
(errors have been located in the website databases; corrections or additional model years may not be added to the database once an Investigation is originally opened or closed)
- * **All vehicles affected may not be listed for a particular Defects Investigation**
(additional vehicles added to an existing Investigation file during the course of the Investigation may not be upgraded to be included in the database index)
- * **All of the Defect Petitions (DP) are not included in the database**
(some DP Investigation Files are not listed by a particular make/model/year vehicle – some of the DP files are opened according to the "subject"; defects in GM door latches, windowshade seat belt systems, fuel leaks resulting in fires, etc.)
- * **Cannot search for a particular component defect in a range of vehicles**
(i.e., all seatbelt problems in all 2000-2003 General Motors passenger cars)
- * **Difficult to search light trucks**
(i.e., light trucks have many designations; General Motors "C-Series," "K-Series," "C-15," "C-1500," "Light Trucks;" all must be searched)
- * **Difficult to search for equipment problems**
(i.e., trailer kingpins, specific engines in vehicles, child restraints sometimes are not listed by model, tires may not have the model name only a size number)
- * **There is no information pertaining to early Rulemaking Dockets**
(i.e., early 1966-approximately 1992 Federal Register notices to the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and comments by General Motors, Ford, etc. are not contained in the database)
- * **There is no one index with all crash tests or Compliance Tests listed; three different crash test indexes must be searched for all crash tests to be located**
(NCAP, Compliance Tests, Crash Test Catalog – Some FMVSS Compliance Tests are not in the database; FMVSS 203, 204, 206, etc.)
- * **Vehicle specifications, vehicle platform information is unavailable**
(there is nowhere in the databases to indicate the various sister vehicles/asian cousins that should be searched as well as the subject vehicle; i.e., the Ford Tempo and Mercury Topaz are essentially the same vehicle; both vehicles should be searched for Recalls, Defects Investigations, crash tests, etc.)