

## Instructions for Submitting an Underride Safety Defect Complaint to the NHTSA Office of Defects Investigations

On September 14, 2021, families of underride victims submitted an official [petition](#) to the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration* (NHTSA) *Office of Defects Investigation* (ODI) asking them to initiate a safety defects investigation into the known reasonable risk of tractor-trailers without side guards. A [denial of our petition](#) was published in the Federal Register on July 2.

Of note is the fact that they cited the low number of underride complaints received by their Office:

***ODI has received three (3) complaints, other than those from the petitioners, related to trailer underride.***

We are hoping that flooding the ODI with additional complaint submissions will provide them with undeniable justification for moving forward with a safety defects investigation of the dangerous truck design which leads to Death By Underride (along with debilitating injuries for survivors and lifelong grief for family members) and which, furthermore, has proven engineering solutions -- for side, rear, front, tractor-trailer, Single Unit Trucks, passenger vehicle occupants, as well as pedestrians, cyclists, and motorcyclists.

If you, or someone you know, lost a loved one due to a truck underride crash, please either send a crash report to [marianne@annaleahmary.com](mailto:marianne@annaleahmary.com) for us to submit a complaint, or follow these steps yourself:

1. Use the [NHTSA Safety Problem Report Form](#) to gather the necessary information which will enable you to complete the NHTSA Safety Problem Report online.
2. Go to the NHTSA [safety problem report](#) webpage.
3. You will be asked what type of problem you want to report. Select: **Vehicle**.
4. Next click on the blue box: **START FORM**.
5. The first thing it will ask you for is the **VIN**.
6. The VIN can be obtained from the crash report.
7. If you do not have the crash report or, if the crash report does not list the full VIN, it is possible (though challenging) to get that information by following these instructions for the NHTSA Data Query Tool: [Instructions for Locating a Truck Crash/VIN](#).
8. Here is an example of a completed Safety Problem Report: [Riley Hein Case](#) or [sample](#).
9. **Alternatively, complaints can be mailed to:**

**National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Attn: Office of Defects Investigation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590**

**Thank you for helping to document the known safety problem of truck underride tragedies. Please send us a copy of your complaint submission & let us know if you have any questions.**

Jerry & Marianne Karth, July 8, 2022