



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

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

**FEB 2 2005**

NVS-216 jcc  
Ref. #10105398

[REDACTED]  
Kansas City, MO [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated November 11, 2004, concerning a problem you encountered with your 1988 Dodge Dakota truck. Your correspondence was received on December 3, 2004. Due to limited resources we were not able to respond to you in a more timely manner. We regret any inconvenience our delay may have caused you.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect or recall inadequacy is warranted.

Our database has revealed that there is a safety-related defect recall on certain 1988 Dodge Dakota trucks that may be of interest to you. We have enclosed a copy of the recall summary for your information. Please contact your local dealership or DaimlerChrysler Corporation (DaimlerChrysler) for further details and have your make, model, model year, and vehicle identification number available for their information.

A review of our database relative to problems associated with the wheel assemblies, specifically the lug nuts, on 1988 Dodge Dakota trucks revealed insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation or an investigation into the adequacy of DaimlerChrysler's



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE  
888-CASH-2-DOT  
888-327-4236

safety recall at this time. The information you have provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

Further, if it can be determined through our analysis and investigation that a safety-related defect exists in motor vehicles, a manufacturer would be required to recall those motor vehicles regardless of the warranty status. However, under our statute of limitations, we cannot require a manufacturer to exercise any recall without charge for motor vehicles beyond 10-years of age. This 10-year limitation applies only to the manufacturer's responsibility to repair a defect free of charge as part of a safety recall campaign under the Federal statute.

You can contact our toll-free DOT Auto Safety Hotline (Hotline) at 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236). One of our representatives may be able to assist you on matters concerning motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment safety recalls or to report an alleged safety problem. You can also request safety information. If our telephones are busy, or you call during non-working hours, you can leave your name, telephone number, and a brief subject on our recording system. A DOT Hotline representative will return your call.

Additionally, we have an Internet Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> that you may want to visit. An electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire (VOQ) is also available on this Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. This form is for vehicle owners to report safety related problems about their motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment, e.g., child safety seats, jacks, tires, brake fluid, etc. The reports submitted are transferred to our database and are used to identify safety-related defect trends that require our attention. If you do not have access to the Internet, please use the enclosed VOQ to inform this agency of any future motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment safety problems you may experience. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc., can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

If further assistance is needed, please contact Mr. Michael J. Jordan, Safety Defects Program Assistant, Correspondence Research Division, Office of Defects Investigation, at (202) 493-0576.

Sincerely,



Alberto A. Jimenez, Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement

Enclosures