



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

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received

12-MAY-2005

Repository ☐

Reference No.
10120772

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City PALESTINE

State TX

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to provide a copy of this report to the manufacturer of your vehicle? ☒ YES ☒ NO
In the absence of an authorization, NHTSA WILL NOT provide your name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.
Signature of Owner Date 6/14/05

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side
2D8CP441956

Make
DODGE

Model
DODGE

Model Year
2008

Date Purchased
15-APR-05

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number
CHAMPION CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP

Engine:
No: Cylinders 6

Fuel Type:
Gas

Original Owner
☒

Dealer's City
PASLESTINE

State
TX

Zip Code
75803

Transmission Type
AUTOMATIC

☒ Antilock Brakes
☒ Cruise Control

Powertrain
FRONT WHEEL DRIVE

Vehicle Component Code
140000 AIR BAGS

Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)
12-MAY-2005

Failure Mileage
500

Failure Speed

See Attached

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make

Tire Model (Name or Number)

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)

DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)

☐ Original Equipment
☐ Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Tire Component Code

Tire Failure Type

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:

Date Manufactured:

Model No./Name:

Seat Type:

Installation System:

Child Seat Component Code:

Failed Part:

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash

Tire

Number of persons Injured

Number of Deaths

Reported to Police

☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ Yes ☒ No

0

0

N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).

Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

DT: PASSENGER AIR BAG IS DEACTIVATED AND CANNOT BE REACTIVATED DUE TO INSTALLATION OF A HANDICAPPED POWER CHAIR. *NM

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

I bought a 2005 Dodge Caravan. My reason for doing this is that it is suitable for installation of equipment for handicapped people. My wife has Parkinson's disease and require assistance in everything she does (24 hour care). I have COPD and require oxygen at all times. I use an electric wheel chair to go to the store, doctor and church. I had a lift installed in the back of the van to move my chair in and out. I had a Bruno Turny package installed in the front passenger seat position to assist my wife when she is being transferred in and out of the van. This was done with the dealers knowledge. Chrysler offers a \$1,000 rebate to assist in financing handicap equipment added to their vehicles. After installation I found that the PASSENGER AIR BAG LIGHT "OFF" stayed on all the time. This meant that my wife, or anyone else riding in the passenger seat, was not protected by the air bag in case of an accident.

I went to the dealer service manager and he told me that there was no way to activate the Air Bag if the passenger seat is removed. He called the Corporate Service Center and got the same answer. I then called the DOT Auto Hot Line, which was given to me by the dealers service manager. The same answer, the air bag cannot be activated without the passenger seat but gave me the phone number for another part of Chrysler. The lady at DOT filed this complaint. I called the new Chrysler number and they agreed that the air bag could not be activated but gave me the number for a company that was a specialist in air bags. I called this number and was told that the lady who was the specialist would not be back until Monday.

I then took the van back to the company that had installed the Bruno Turny seat. They said that they had failed to hook up a wire. They did something, the light went off and has been off ever since. My problem now is:

1. Would the air bag function if we had an accident? Is it safe for my wife to ride there?
2. Has the seat company found a way to just defeat the warning light? Do they have a way to turn off the warning light and the air bag still function?
3. Chrysler has a large engineering staff and gives a monetary incentive for installation of equipment to help the handicapped. Do they do this with the knowledge that a safety hazard is being created? At this stage I do not know if the air bag would deploy in an accident. I don't want to find out the hard way.


 Palestine, TX


CC: CHAMPION CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP



VEHICLE OWNER'S QUESTIONNAIRE

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

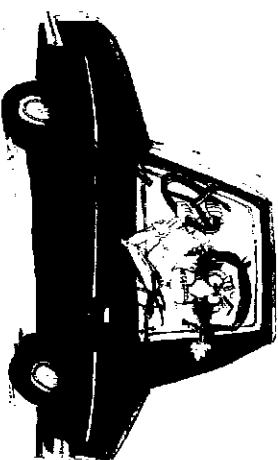
**TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS
COMPLETE THIS FORM
OR**

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and dial toll free at

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