

NHTSA ccmMercury Routing Slip



Printed: 9/12/2005

NHTSA #: ES05-007618	Rec'd Date: 9/12/2005	Referred By: NEC-110
XREF #:	Doc Type: GEN	Doc Date: 9/8/2005
Delivery: EML	Address To:	Due Date:
S10 #:	DOT/I #:	RMP #:
Subject: E-MAIL WRITER CONCERNED WITH METAL BRAKE LINES ON THE 1999 DODGE CARAVAN, PLYMOUTH VOYAGER AND THE CHRYSLER MINIVAN WELDED WITH DISSIMILAR METALS CORROSION OF BRAKE LINE DEFECT		
Ack Date:	Ack By:	Signed For:
Sign Office: ENFORCEMENT	Signature: NRN	Cleared For:
Cleared Date:	Cleared By:	Closed Date: 9/12/2005
File Loc:	XREF File:	
Added By: AANDREWS x62543	Modified By: AANDREWS	
Most Recent Comment:		

Author:

[Redacted]
 WINDSOR, CT
 Tel: [Redacted]

10121461

Assigned To	Task	Asgn Date	Deadline	Returned Date
NVS-200	APPROPRIATE	9/12/2005		9/12/2005

2005 SEP 14 AM 2:00

ODI

2005 SEP 13 A 9:10
 EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Assign to Michael
 Add to
 10121461

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2005 10:12 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Letter to Dr. Runge

Hi [REDACTED] The letter below came through the Vehicle Safety Hotline. I believe it should be answered by Defects. Do you control e-mails?

Tina

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2005 4:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter to Dr. Runge

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2005 12:53 PM
To: nhtsa.vsh
Subject: [BULK] Chrysler MiniVan brake lines can cause death or serious injury.
Importance: Low

From: [REDACTED]
Comments:
Dr. Jeffrey W. Runge
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

August 22, 2005

Dr. Runge,

A review of the NHTSA complaint site indicates that Daimler Chrysler Corporation has a very serious safety defect or nonconformance that could result in a serious injury and or death. Daimler Chrysler has been notified of this defect/nonconformance on several occasions and continues to deny the problem.

The metal brake lines on the 1999 Dodge Caravan, Plymouth Voyager, and Chrysler Mini-Vans are welded with dissimilar metals. They have braided stainless steel flex segments that are welded to steel brake lines. This welding of dissimilar metals could cause corrosion of the steel brake lines and results in a brake line burst which occurs without any warnings.

The design of the brake line holding brackets also allows the rear brake lines to rub together. This brake line rubbing, removes the protective zinc coating from the brake lines which subsequently results in corrosion or a brake line burst.
I understand that there will be a recall in Canada on the Chrysler Mini Vans for rusted brake lines.

We found five (5) complaints to NHTSA, on the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) Complaint Site pertaining to the corrosion of Chrysler supplied brake lines which resulted in brake line bursts. There

may be more that we didn't locate.

Ref: ODI Complaint Numbers - 10112174, 10121461, 10023409, 10087291, and 10125674.

Complaint Numbers 10103217, 10044433, and 10017536 may also be related to this same problem.

This complaint is very personal to us because my wife experienced a brake line burst in our 1999 Dodge Caravan. If the brake line burst occurred in heavy traffic and or at highway speed, it could have resulted in her death or serious injury. Ref: ODI Complaint # 10121461.

We notified Daimler Chrysler Corporation on several occasions by telephone and emails concerning this serious safety defect/nonconformance. They were apologetic about the mishap, however, they stated (1) that they had never had a complaint concerning brake line burst on any of their vehicles, (2) they had never issued a Service Bulletin or Recall, and (3) they could do nothing for me because the vehicle was out of warranty.

We are appalled by Daimler Chrysler's lack of concern on this serious safety issue and we believe that their lack of corrective action is criminal.

We are also upset because NHTSA, has had several complaints on this safety related defect/nonconformance and no action has been taken.

Do we have to have a DEATH before Daimler Chrysler Corporation or NHTSA investigates this serious safety defect or nonconformance?

What is the LIFE EXPECTANCY of these brake lines?

How do you stop a vehicle in heavy traffic or at highway speeds?

Is the consumer or manufacturer, responsible to prove that these brake lines are defective or nonconforming?

The Safety Recall Compendium issued by NHTSA (3rd Release, June 2001) clearly requires that,

When to Report (49 U.S.C. & 30118 and 49 CFR Part 573.5 b).

A manufacturer who has determined that a safety defect or noncompliance exists, must report such a determination to NHTSA within 5 working days. A manufacturer need not have identified the cause, scope, or remedy in order to make a determination that a safety defect or noncompliance exists, at least in some vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment. If part of the information which is required to fully describe the recall is unknown, notification to the agency must still be made with the existing information within 5 working days. The remaining information is to be provided as it becomes available.

Who Should Report (49 U.S.C. & 30102 AND 30118; 49 CFR Parts 573.3 and 579)

Each manufacturer of a motor vehicle has recall responsibility for any safety-related defect or any noncompliance determined to exist in a vehicle or in any item of original equipment. The manufacturer of an item of motor vehicle equipment in which a safety defect or noncompliance is determined to exist (1) is responsible for notifying the vehicle manufacturer and (2) with respect to an item of replacement equipment (including tires), has recall responsibility for the equipment containing the safety defect or noncompliance. (49 CFR Part 579 "Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility".)

We understand that Daimler Chrysler Corporation has the same type brake line configuration in the 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000 models of their Dodge Caravan, Plymouth Voyager, and Chrysler Town & Country, Mini-Vans.

We also understand that a change was made on the 2001 models that

removed the welded Stainless Steel Flex segment from the brake lines.

We have copies of emails sent to Daimler Chrysler Corporation concerning this complaint and also emails with their replies to us.

We also have a section of the original brake line that was removed from my 1999 Dodge Caravan. It can be made available to your testing facilities to analyze the cause of the defect/nonconformance. Ref: attached picture.

<img-"http://members.aol.com:/vankings/brakeline.jpg">

Please keep us informed as to your progress on this serious safety defect/nonconformance.

[REDACTED]
Windsor, CT
[REDACTED]

From NHTSA Web Site.

"This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. This communication may contain material that is privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivering the email to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this email in error and that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing, or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify Datatrac Information Services at [REDACTED]

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

2005 SEP 12 1P 1:31

TRANSPORTATION ADMIN.



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

Date Received
2015 MAY -6 AM 9:10
10121461
Reference No.

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name
Street Apt. No.
City WINDSOR State CT Zip

Daytime 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 4/12/15

PRODUCT INFORMATION

Vehicle Identification No. (VIN) (17 Digits) 1B4BP7RL9XB
Make DODGE Model GRAND CHALLENGER MINICAN Year 1999
Purchased Date 1-11-99 Dealer's Name HARTOLL DODGE Dealer's City ENFIELD State CT Zip Code 06033
Engine Size (CID/CC) Turbo Diesel Gas Fuel Injection
Transmission Type Manual Automatic
Restraint System Driver's Side Air Bag Passenger's Side Air Bag 3-Point Belt 3-Point Belt
Cruise Control Yes No
Drivetrain Front Rear 4-Wheel
Vehicle Type Car Van Minivan Other
Body Style 2-Door 4-Door Station Wagon Pick Up Truck Other

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Part Name(s) METAL RIBBON LINE Location Left Front Right Rear
Failed Part(s) Original Replacement
Handicap Adaptive Equip Yes No

TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Brand Tire Name
Complete Tire Size DOT No.
No. of Failures Date(s) of Failure(s) Mileage at Failure(s) Vehicle Speed at Failure(s):
Failed Part(s) Available? Yes No
NHTSA Previously Contacted? Yes No

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

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

Crash Yes No Fire Yes No Number of Persons Injured NONE Number of Fatalities NONE Reported to Manufacturer Yes No

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).
to the floor and she
ATTACHED
Continue on back

The Privacy Act of 1974 - Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to 48 U.S.C. Chapter 901. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist NHTSA in determining whether a manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If 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.

When parked, my wife put her foot on the brake, the brake pedal went to the floor and she was left without brakes. The vehicle was unsafe to drive and we had it towed to a Chrysler Dealership.

I was informed that the metal brake lines had rusted through which resulted in a brake line burst. If this had occurred on the highway and/or in heavy traffic it could have resulted in serious injury or death.

I notified Chrysler about this brake line burst and requested answers to safety related questions and reimbursement for the cost of the brake line replacement.

Chrysler stated, they had never experienced a brake line burst and had never issued any Service Bulletins or Recalls. My request for reimbursement was denied, because the warranty had expired.

I requested answers to the following questions:

- (1) What materials are the Metal Brake Lines made from?
- (2) What is the life expectancy of these brake lines?
- (3) What is the DOT Burst Test Requirements for these brake lines?
- (4) Why is there no requirement to inspect these metal brake lines in the Owners Manual or Service Schedule Maintenance Booklet?
- (5) How do you stop this vehicle if you have a brake line burst in heavy traffic and/or on the highway at 65 MPH?

Chrysler's answers were:

- "(1) We do not and cannot put a life expectancy on any of the parts on any of our vehicles.
- (2) Testing and requirements are not available to me to provide out to you. This is proprietary information.
- (3) If you are currently having problems with your vehicle, please make an appointment at your local Dodge dealership for proper inspection and diagnosis."

I am appalled by Chrysler's Incompetent answers to my questions and their lack of concern over a safety defect that could result in serious injury or death.

I have a section of this defective brake line. I believe that if NHTS or the Chrysler engineers inspected this brake line they would automatically request a recall.

Friday, April 22, 2005 America Online: VANKINGS