



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

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

SEP 14 2006

NVS-216 aae
Ref. # 10134177

Plainview, NY

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated June 18, 2006, concerning your model year (MY) 2005 Dodge Dakota truck. Your correspondence was received on July 25, 2006. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding 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 this and the previous report you provided on August 25, 2005. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect or safety defect recall adequacy is warranted.

A review of our database revealed several reports from consumers concerning brake pulsation and similar accounts as you indicated experiencing with your MY 2005 Dodge Dakota truck. Owners have reported, as you did, that the pulsation and shaking when applying the brake is annoying and a concern. However, there are no reports of a driver losing control of the vehicle. Brake pulsation, tire or suspension vibration, and similar conditions, while an obvious annoyance to the driver, generally do not cause a driver to lose control of a vehicle. Under these circumstances, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require the initiation of a safety defect investigation.



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

If you have not done so, you may consider contacting your local Consumer Protection Agency, Better Business Bureau, or the New York State Office of the Attorney General regarding your problem and your rights under the New York State Lemon Law. You may also ask your dealership for a meeting with a Dodge district manager regarding your problem.

You can contact our toll-free NHTSA Vehicle 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 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. A Monthly Defect Report is available on that site that provides a listing of current investigations. Enter "Monthly Defect Report" in the NHTSA Search capability to locate the reports. 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>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alberto A. Jimenez", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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

Enclosure