



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

206 FEB -7 AM 11:03

Repository ☐

07-DEC-2005

Reference No.
10144662

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

SWANSEA

State IL

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?
In the absence of a signature or address to the vehicle manufacturer. ☒ YES ☐ NO
Signature of Owner Date 1/11/06

VEHICLE INFORMATION

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

1B7HC16Z0

Name

DODGE

Model

PICKUP

Model Year

1998

Date Purchased

01-AUG-00

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

MONKEN-JANSEN

Engine:

No. Cylinders 8

Fuel Type:

Gas

Original Owner

Dealer's City

CENTRALIA

State

IL

Zip Code

62801

Transmission Type

AUTOMATIC

☒ Antilock Brakes

☒ Cruise Control

Powertrain

REAR WHEEL DRIVE

Vehicle Component Code

141000 AIR BAGS:FRONTAL

Multiple Failure: 1

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)

21-NOV-2005

Failure Mileage

51200

Failure Speed

25

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: DOTM18ABC038)

☐ 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

☐ Yes ☒ No

Fire

☐ Yes ☒ No

Number of Persons Injured

N/A

Number of Deaths

N/A

Reported to Police

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: THE CONTACT STATED THE DRIVER'S SIDE AIR BAG DEPLOYED. HE DID NOT HIT ANYTHING PRIOR TO THIS INCIDENT. CHRYSLER SENT AN INVESTIGATOR ON 11-29-05 AND TOOK PICTURES INSIDE AND OUT OF THE TRUCK. THEN, STATED THE TRUCK DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT; THUS, THE TRUCK WAS NOT DAMAGED. CHRYSLER SENT THE CONTACT A LETTER ON 12-5-05 STATING THAT THE AIR BAG LIGHT ILLUMINATED FOR A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD OF TIME. THEREFORE, THEY WERE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPAIRS. THE CONTACT STATED THE AIR BAG LIGHT WAS NOT ON PRIOR TO THIS INCIDENT, AND THAT HE WAS AWARE THAT IF THE AIR BAG LIGHT ILLUMINATED IT WAS AN INDICATOR THAT THE AIR BAG WAS NOT FUNCTIONING PROPERLY. THEREFORE, IT SHOULD NOT HAVE DEPLOYED PREMATURELY. WHEN HE HAD THE CAR SERVICED AT A LOCAL DEALERSHIP THEY DID NOT MENTION THE AIR BAG LIGHT ILLUMINATING. *AK

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

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-578) 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 to 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.

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

Early in October, 2005 Airbag light came on for about 10 minutes. Went to our Family Technician, CAP Tech Automotive, which has serviced our Family vehicles for several years. Don Hall, the mechanic, checked the vehicle thoroughly and found no reason for the light to have come on. As I left the shop the light came on. I started the vehicle and then went immediately off and never did come back on. Don checked with me a few weeks later and my light never stayed on past the normal start-up time. The Chrysler Corp indicated to me, through their independent investigator that the light had been on for an extended period and should have been fixed. It is my understanding through other mechanics as well, that if the air bag was on for extended period, it should have deployed anyway. On November 21, 2005 at @ 25 mph, while making a right turn and not hitting anything or going through bumps, etc. (See attached Page 2) the air bag deployed.

P.S. - The Chrysler Corporation has indicated that since 3-year warranty expired, they are not in consideration of making Any compensation toward the repair. Estimated cost of repair - \$1200.00. Any help from your office would be greatly appreciated.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

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

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

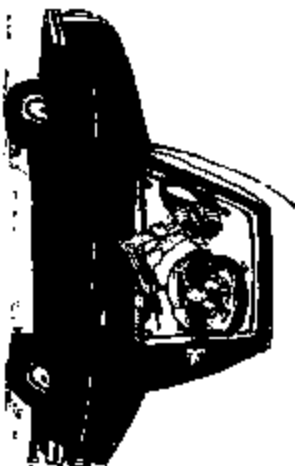
BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO 73175 WASHINGTON, D.C.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY NATL. HWY. TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defects Investigation, NHTSA-216
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

NO POSTAGE
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IN THE
UNITED STATES



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Administration
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and dial toll free at

DASH2DOT

TO REPORT VEHICLE SAFETY DEFECTS
COMPLETE THIS FORM
OR

DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE

QUESTIONNAIRE

**VEHICLE
OWNER'S**

Bank of America



page: 2

(Continued from page 1) -

The deployment could have been fatal, considering all the "what ifs", i.e., going off the road into a ditch or going into on-coming traffic.

I did speak to two Chrysler representatives regarding this matter, however, it became a "non-event". Basically, 3 year warranty or 36,000 miles. I would think that it is a "built-in" safety feature created by the manufacturer and it should be a lifelong safety and should not fall into a maintenance or mechanical issue.

Please advise me in writing at your earliest convenience whether you think it advisable to seek legal action. - All I really want is for Chrysler to repair any and all damages that occurred as a result. Thank You!

cc: Chrysler Customer Center, P.O. Box 21-8004, Auburn Hills, Michigan
Phone: 800-992-1997

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

DaimlerChrysler
Motors Company LLC

November 30, 2005

[REDACTED]
Belleville, IL [REDACTED]

Re: File No.: [REDACTED]
V.I.N.: 1B7HC16Z [REDACTED]

Des [REDACTED]

This is in regard to the inspection that was performed on your vehicle by a representative from Engineering Analysis Associates.

As stated in the owner's manual, "The diagnostic unit turns on the air bag light in the instrument panel for six to eight seconds when the ignition is first turned on, then turns the light off. If it detects a malfunction in any part of this system, it turns on the light either momentarily or continuously. If the light does not come on, stays on after you start the vehicle, or if it comes on as you drive, have the air bag system checked right away."

Our inspection revealed that the air bag warning light had been illuminated for a substantial period of time. We feel this provided you with ample warning and opportunity to have this issue addressed. Due to these circumstances, we must respectfully decline any manufacturing responsibility in this matter.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to review this with you.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

JSS/ss

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Belleville, IL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

January 12, 2006

Re: 1998 Dodge Ram Pickup Truck

To Whom It May Concern:

Pat Roth came into our shop on October 4, 2005 with a complaint regarding his Air Bag Light that suddenly was on. We checked for codes and none were present. We turned the vehicle off and restarted. The Air Bag Light flashed and then went out which is the normal criteria. An additional retest was done with no further problems. We also checked with Pat two weeks later and he reported no problems.

On November 21, 2005, Pat called and said Air Bag had deployed while he was slowing down and making a right hand turn. I checked the vehicle and did not find any damages due to hitting anything, of course after the bag had deployed, the Air Bag Light was on. The passenger bag did not deploy and the switch was in the "on" position.

Pat asked what would cause this, and my best guess would be that something in the driver air bag circuit shorted to either power or ground.

Any further questions or information may be obtained by calling [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Donald Hall

Donald Hall
Chief Mechanic

**THE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS
DOCUMENT HAVE BEEN REMOVED
TO PROTECT UNWARRANTED
INVASION OF PERSONAL PRIVACY
PURSUANT TO EXEMPTION 6 OF
THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).**