



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

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

JUN 21 2006

[REDACTED]
Berlin, MD [REDACTED]

NVS-216 pe
Ref. No. 10159459

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated May 23, 2006, concerning your model year (MY) 1999 Dodge Ram 3500 van equipped with General Grabber tires. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on June 1, 2006. We regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

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 determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to specific suspension or tire problems that cause wandering in MY 1999 Dodge Ram 3500 vans. At this time, 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 other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4238

Regarding tire aging, presently there is no Federal motor vehicle safety standard for expiration dates on new tires. However, research is being conducted on developing tire aging requirements, and upon completion of the research on aging requirement, a Federal motor vehicle safety standard may be established.

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 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>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alberto A. Jimenez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "J" at the end.

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