



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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

DEC 12 2006

NVS-216 mrc
Ref No. 10170168

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sioux City, IA [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the pressure hose on the Sioux City Fleet's Dodge Stratus vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on October 3, 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.

Chapter 301 of Title 49 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) requires a manufacturer of motor vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment that contain a defect relating to motor vehicle safety or fail to comply with a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard to remedy the defect or noncompliance without charge. However, our statute does not require manufacturers to reimburse owners for costs associated with repair or corrective action performed prior to initiating a recall or for any additional costs associated with a safety recall (e.g., lost wages while the vehicle is being repaired, car rentals, repairs not performed by an authorized dealership, damage caused by the defect, etc.). Nor does the statute authorize the Federal government to



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reimburse vehicle owners for any costs associated with safety recalls or assist vehicle owners in obtaining reimbursements for costs associated with an alleged defect. Although not required by the statute, under certain conditions, manufacturers may reimburse vehicle owners for recall work completed prior to receiving a recall notice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black 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