



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

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

May 16, 2007



NVS-216et  
Ref # 10177643

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the problem you encountered with the hood latch on your model year (MY) 1997 Dodge Ram vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on April 18, 2007. 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 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 or safety defect recall adequacy is warranted.

On February 7, 2001, DaimlerChrysler notified NHTSA that it would conduct a safety recall (NHTSA Campaign No. 01V-040) to remedy a defect of the secondary hood latch in certain MY 1994 through 1999 Dodge Ram vehicles. A summary of the recall notification is attached for your information. The owner notification program for DaimlerChrysler's safety recall was scheduled to begin during September 2001. If you received notification, please be advised that it is the responsibility of the vehicle owner to deliver a recalled vehicle to an authorized dealership so that the safety-related corrective action can be performed. Additionally, the recall provisions of our authorizing statute do not require manufacturers to reimburse vehicle owners for any additional costs associated with a safety recall (e.g., collateral damages associated with the safety defect, lost wages while the vehicle is being repaired, car rentals, etc.).

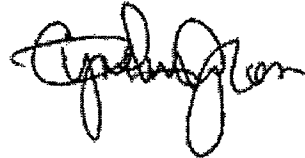


VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE  
888-327-4236

Information submitted by vehicle owners using Vehicle Owner's Questionnaires (VOQs) are automatically entered into our complaint database, and data is then available to NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation investigators for review and analysis to determine whether an investigation is warranted. Due to the volume of VOQs received and limited agency resources, NHTSA cannot respond to the submitters of these questionnaires. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused you.

As you may know, should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic VOQ online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. 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 "Cynthia Glass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Cynthia Glass, Acting Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement

Attachment: NHTSA Campaign No. 01V-040