



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

June 4, 2008



NVS-216 mec  
Ref. # 10228315

Dear 

Thank you for your email concerning your model year (MY) 2002 Dodge Stratus. Your correspondence was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation on May 30, 2008.

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 safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. 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. We have reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to non-deployment of the air bags system during a crash in MY 2002 Dodge Stratus vehicles. Although we are not opening a safety defect investigation at this time, we continually review all available data to determine whether an investigation may be warranted. The information you provided has been entered into our database and will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

Please be advised, a number of factors can affect whether an air bag will deploy in a given crash; e.g., the angle of impact, the speed and size of the other vehicle, and the amount of force absorbed by the other vehicle or object that is impacted. Only an expert in crash reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to whether the air bag in a vehicle should have deployed in a specific crash. If you have not done, you may request through your insurance company that an expert in crash reconstruction examine the circumstances surrounding your crash.

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 Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire 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 that reads "Frank S Borris II". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "F" and "S".

Frank S. Borris II, Acting Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement