



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

March 19, 2012

[REDACTED]

Oregon House, CA [REDACTED]

NVS-216 rrr
Ref. No. 10425814

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 1989 Dodge Dakota. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence. 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 motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain 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 trend may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

You indicate that you lost control of your MY 1989 Dodge Dakota when the power steering failed which resulted in a crash. A local mechanic diagnosed the problem and determined that the rack and pinion needed to be replaced because the bolts that fasten it to the frame had fractured. You indicate that this problem is addressed by NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 96V-094. However, a local dealer told you that your vehicle exceeded the statute of limitation for the recall remedy. After some difficulty, Chrysler agreed to repair your vehicle; however, your local dealer told you that they do not have the parts for the repair.

Your vehicle may be included in NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 01V-232 (summary attached), which is identical to the aforementioned recall. The recall address a problem with the bolts that attach the steering gear to the frame fracturing in certain MY 1989 Dodge Dakota trucks equipped with the Shelby package. Also, the recall includes reinforcing the frame where the steering gear attaches. We recommend you continue to with Chrysler for assistance in locating a local Dodge dealer that can secure the parts and repair your vehicle.



Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq or call the Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randy Reid". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "D".

Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

Enclosure

Recall Detail

19-MAR-2012

Recall Num: 01 V 232 000 **573 Date:** 05-JUL-2001 **573 Date Rcvd:** 06-JUL-2001 **Potentially Affected:** 4,000 **Potentially Defective:** 4,000**Mfr Recall Num:** 988**Subject:** DAIMLERCHRYSLER/STEERING RACK AND PINION MOUNT**Remedy Type:****RP Num:****FMVSS Num:****Recall Type:** Defect**Recall Effect:** Crash Worthiness**NHTSA Inv Num:****Influenced by:** MFR**Problem Exp:****Manufacturer:** DAIMLERCHRYSLER CORPORATION**Recall Status:** CONDUCTING RECALL

Problem Descr: VEHICLE DESCRIPTION: 4X2 PICKUP TRUCK CONVERTIBLES EQUIPPED WITH V6 ENGINES (BUILT FROM NOVEMBER 1988 - JUNE 1990) AND 4X2 PICKUP TRUCKS EQUIPPED WITH THE SHELBY PACKAGE (BUILT OCTOBER 1988 - JUNE 1989). THE FRAME CAN CRACK AT THE STEERING GEAR ATTACHMENT AND/OR THE STEERING GEAR MOUNTING BOLTS CAN FRACTURE.

Consequence: THE STEERING GEAR CAN SEPARATE FROM THE VEHICLE FRAME RESULTING IN A LOSS OF VEHICLE CONTROL INCREASING THE POTENTIAL FOR A VEHICLE ACCIDENT.

Remedy Type: DEALERS WILL ADD REINFORCEMENTS TO THE FRAME AND REPLACE THE STEERING GEAR MOUNTING BOLTS. IF THE FRAME IS ALREADY CRACKED, THE STEERING GEAR WELD NUTS WILL ALSO BE REPLACED. OWNER NOTIFICATION BEGAN AUGUST 27, 2001. OWNERS WHO TAKE THEIR VEHICLES TO AN AUTHORIZED DEALER ON AN AGREED UPON SERVICE DATE AND DO NOT RECEIVE THE FREE REMEDY WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME SHOULD CONTACT DAIMLERCHRYSLER AT 1-800-853-1403.

Notes: ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236).

MFR Knowl Dt:**Prod Change Dt:****Mfr Press Release Dt:****NHTSA Press Release Dt:****Stop Sales:****Regional:****Supplier:****Mfr Toll Free Num:**

Products	Vehicle Usage	Beginning Mfg Date	Ending Mfg Date
Product Type :VEHICLE Manufacturer :CHRYSLER GROUP LLC Make :DODGE Model :DAKOTA Model Year :1990		01-OCT-1988	30-JUN-1990
Product Type :VEHICLE Manufacturer :CHRYSLER GROUP LLC Make :DODGE Model :DAKOTA Model Year :1989		01-OCT-1988	30-JUN-1990

Component Name

STEERING:GEAR BOX (OTHER THAN RACK AND PINION)

Influencing Investigation(s)

Investigation Num	Subject	Investigator	Relationship
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Related Recalls

Yr	Type	Major Sub	Relationship
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Recall Characteristics**Unique Recall****Unique Descr**

Recall Detail

19-MAR-2012

Recall Communications**Fax Ack:****Draft 577 Received:****Final 577 Received:****Phased:** Y**Renotification:** 14-FEB-2002**Dealer Notification****Received:****Letter Ack:****Draft 577 Approved:****Owner Notification:** 27-AUG-2001**577 End:** 12-SEP-2002**Envelope Approved:****Dealer Notification:**