 <p>DOT Auto Safety Hotline Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire To Report Vehicle Safety Defects 1-888-DASH-2-DOT (1-888-327-4236) INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline</p>		FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148 Date Received SEP 10 2013 13-AUG-2013		Repository <input type="checkbox"/> Reference No. 10535141 2013 SEP -9 P 4: 55	
OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)					
Name		Address		E-mail Address	
City		State	Zip Code	Evening Telephone Number	
CHAPPAQUA		NY			
The information you provide will be used to identify potential safety-related defects. We may share your information with the applicable vehicle manufacturer during an investigation or recall in accordance with the routine uses described in the agency's Privacy Act notice. See 49 FR 53971 (Sep. 3, 2004).					
VEHICLE INFORMATION					
17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side		Make	Model	Model Year	
1C4RJFAG 8DC		JEEP	GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO	2013	
Date Purchased	Dealer's Name and Telephone Number		Engine:	Fuel Type:	
11/16/12	ROCKLAND CJD 845-627-3700		3.6L	GAS	
Original Owner	Dealer's City	State	Zip Code	No: Cylinders	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NANUET	NY	10954	6	
Transmission Type	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Antilock Brakes	Powertrain	Multiple Failure:	Incident Date(s)	
AUTOMATIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cruise Control	5 Speed AUTO. TRANSMISSION	0	03-AUG-2013	
FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION					
AIR SPOILER OVER REAR VIEW WINDOW			Failure Mileage	Failure Speed	
			~ 6,000 miles	45 mph	
ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE					
Tire Make	Tire Model (Name or Number)		Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)		
N/A					
DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Equipment	Failure Location:			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prior Repair				
Tire Component Code	Tire Failure Type:				
ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE					
Make:	Date Manufactured:		Model No./Name:		
N/A					
Seat Type:	Installation System:				
N/A					
Child Seat Component Code:	Failed Part:				
APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION (Please describe in detail the incident(s), Failure(s), Crash(es), and injury (ies).)					
Crash	Fire	Number of Persons Injured	Number of Deaths	Reported to Police	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	0	0	N	
Narrative Description of Incident(S), Crash(es), and Injury(ies). Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e. parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).					
TL- THE CONTACT OWNS A 2013 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE. THE CONTACT STATED THAT THE SPOILER FOR THE BACK RACK FRACTURED AND CAUSED THE RACK TO MOVE IN A WAY THAT WAS OBSCURING THE CONTACT'S VISIBILITY OF THE REAR WINDOW. THE VEHICLE WAS TAKEN TO A DEALER FOR DIAGNOSIS BUT THE CONTACT WAS INFORMED THAT THE FAILURE WAS USER ERROR. THE MANUFACTURER WAS MADE AWARE OF THE FAILURE. THE VEHICLE HAD NOT BEEN REPAIRED. THE FAILURE AND CURRENT MILEAGE WAS 6,000. KMJ					
<i>see attached page for more details.</i>					
Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice. ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY.					
The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.					

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

The car is about 8 months old. The bike rack is about four years old. It is made by SARIS and we have used it on several cars without any problems. Over the years, we have had three other Jeeps and there has been no problems with using other bike racks on those cars.

We were driving around 45mph when the air spoiler suddenly separated from the car, causing the spoiler to block the view through the rear view window. The bike rack with two bikes on it crashed to the ground. Fortunately, the bikes and bike rack did not separate from the car because they were held to the car by the bottom two hooks on the rack. If the rack and bikes had completely separated from the car, they could have gone flying on the highway. Most likely, they would have caused significant personal injury to passengers in other cars and major damage to other vehicles.

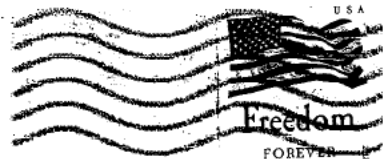
We subsequently learned that the spoiler is made of two pieces of plastic glued together and flimsily attached to the rear tailgate. All of our previous Jeeps had exposed metal (part of the tailgate) to which bike rack hooks could be attached. We did not even think that there might be a problem when we attached the two top hooks of the rack to the only horizontal opening that separates the tailgate from the roof. The car manual says nothing about not using bike racks that attach over the tailgate and the dealer never gave us any warning.

I believe this is a significant traffic safety hazard. If you receive other reports of potential or real accidents from air spoiler problems, this model Jeep should be recalled and metal air spoilers should be installed so that one can safely use a bike rack that attaches to back of the car.

CHAPPAQUA, NY

WESTCHESTER NY 105

03 SEP 2013 PM 1 L



U.S. DOT
NHISA
West Building
1200 New Jersey Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20590^{SE}

20590

