

Winston-Salem NC

February 21, 2015
May 20, 2015
July 1, 2015

INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

NHTSA
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
West Building
Washington, DC 20590

JUL 14 2015

Re: 1998-99 Dodge Ram 1500

Dear NHTSA:

I have a 1998 Dodge Ram 1500 truck whose seat belts won't work. About three years ago one morning the seat belts (both sides) wouldn't pull down out of the seat. I took the truck to an independent repair shop, he couldn't figure out what was wrong. I took it to the dealership and he said the "seatbelts would have to be replaced and it would run about \$1,000" but he never could tell me what "replaced" meant. About a year ago I took it to another dealership and he said the belts would have to "be replaced" but again, couldn't elaborate on that except it would cost between \$800 and \$1,000. I've drove it for almost three years without working seat belts.

Last October I went online and in searching I kept running into what's called a "belt module." It's a little box about the size of a package of cigarettes found underneath the center console, it controls the seatbelts. I went back to the dealership to get one and the fellow said "there are 338 on back order do you want to get in line?" I didn't, he said it didn't indicate if they were even still in production. I went to a junkyard and bought one for \$35, took the old one out, put the junk one in and the belts work fine. I didn't have to "replace" them.

My question is this: If seat belts are designed and required by the NHTSA to protect the driver not only during a crash but also from getting your neck broke by an inflating air bag, then why doesn't the NHTSA require a manufacturer to repair them or at least make available the part to repair them? No seat belts with an air bag going off is dangerous and I shouldn't have to junk my truck because Chrysler quit making the part to fix it. This may not necessarily be a recall but it should be a condition that they provide the part. It's part no. P56043003RB and fits a 1998-1999 Dodge Ram 1500. **I would appreciate your reply either by email to: [REDACTED] or by return letter.**

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7/23/15
SMD

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Winston Salem NC [REDACTED]

GREENSBORO NC 270
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