


Winston-Salem NC 

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

JAN 23 2015

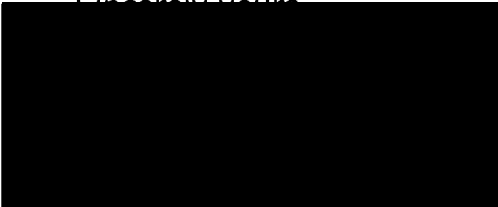
Re: 1998-99 Dodge Ram 1500

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 a dealership and he said the "seatbelts would have to be replaced" "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 belts.

About a month ago I went online and in searching on Google I kept running into what's called a "belt module." It's a little module 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 the belts are designed and required by the NHTSA to protect the driver not only in a crash but also from getting your neck broke by an inflating air bag, then why doesn't the NHTSA require a manufacturer to at least provide the part to fix them? If the catalytic converter stops up I can go NAPA and get one, that's required by the EPA. No seat belts with an active air bag 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 required they provide the part. It's part no P56043003RB and fits a 1998-1999 Dodge Ram 1500. I would appreciate your reply by email to:  or by return letter.



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Winston Salem NC

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West Building
Washington, DC 20590**

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