



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

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

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

May 11, 2016

[REDACTED]
Murray, IA [REDACTED]

NEF-160 rrr
Ref. No. 10859749

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your (MY) 2005 Dodge Ram 1500. Your correspondence was forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. I am pleased to respond

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair motor 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 do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

You provided a copy of your repair order from an independent repair facility that serviced your MY 2005 Dodge Ram 1500 truck. During their courtesy inspection they determined that the front hub assemblies and rear universal joints were in poor condition and could cause a potential safety issue. You want to report this problem to NHTSA.

We reviewed our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to universal joint and front hub assembly failures in MY 2005 Dodge Ram 1500. At this time there is insufficient evidence to indicate a defect trend and thus warrant opening a safety defect investigation or to initiate a recall. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. For your information, an explanation of NHTSA's investigation and recall process is on our Web site at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm.

The repair order notes that you installed oversized tires and wheels on your truck and it has over 100,000 miles. Your truck's power train, steering, and suspension components have been engineered to perform at optimal levels based on the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) wheel and tire size. It's your truck and you can choose to make any alterations you wish. However, be aware that altering your trucks OEM tire and wheel size may adversely affect vehicle performance, ride quality, cause premature component wear, and overall safety.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or 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 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 cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

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