



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

February 12, 2019

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

NEF-109 ela
Ref. No. 11139812

Arab, AL [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your client, [REDACTED] and his model year (MY) 2005 Dodge Dakota truck. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence. Our office received an unprecedented increase in the number of correspondence. Our limited resources have been overwhelmed and we are now just getting to your letter. We regret any inconvenience this delay 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 completion rates and adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for NHTSA. [REDACTED] MY 2005 Dodge Dakota truck is affected by NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 17V-820. Fatigue failures of the carbon element can cause hot spots to develop which can propagate into burn holes in the seat cushion or open flames in the interior of the vehicle in certain MY 2005 Dodge Dakota trucks equipped with heated seats.

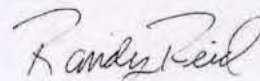
We are aware of the delay of Recall 17V-820 and regret that [REDACTED] experienced a seat fire while waiting to receive recall remedy. Please note that it is not unusual for manufacturers to have an inadequate inventory of recall parts shortly after a recall is announced. Recall parts availability can be affected by numerous factors including, but not limited to, redesign, testing, manufacturing and logistics.

Your request to have all responsible parties repair the seats in [REDACTED] truck does not fall under our jurisdiction. Chapter 301 of Title 49 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) requires a manufacturer of motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment that contain a defect relating to motor vehicle safety or fail to comply with a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard to remedy the defect or noncompliance without charge. However, our statute does not require manufacturers to provide repairs or reimburse owners for any additional costs associated with a

safety recall, such as damage caused by the defect. Nor does the statute authorize the Federal government to provide repairs or reimburse vehicle owners for any additional costs associated with safety recalls or assist vehicle owners in obtaining reimbursements for costs associated with an alleged defect. We recommend that you and [REDACTED] contact Fiat Chrysler Automobiles and his dealer for assistance in repairing the seats in his truck.

Should your client 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.gov or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at our website.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

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