U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 02-029
Prompted By: PE02-045
Date Opened: 10/16/2002 Date Closed: 02/10/2004
Principal Investigator: Cheryl Tuosto
Subject: Hood Latch Failure

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Products: 1993-1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee
Population: 1,516,343

Problem Description: The hood latch assembly on model year (MY) 1993-1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee sport utility vehicles allegedly fails, causing the hood to open without warning while the vehicle is in motion.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	20	58	71
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	1	0	1
# Injuries:	1	0	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other: Injury resulted when the passenger hit her head on the side window as the driver turned to get the vehicle off the road

Action: This Engineering Analysis (EA) has been closed.

Engineer: *Cheryl Tuosto CAT* Date: *02/10/2004*
Div. Chief: *Jeffrey L. Quandt* Date: *02/10/2004*
Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter* Date: *02/10/2004*

Summary: ODI opened EA02-029 to determine whether a safety-related defect trend existed in the MY 1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee hood latch assemblies. During EA02-029, there was no specific failure mechanism identified that could differentiate the MY 1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles from other vehicles containing this same hood latch assembly or account for their higher complaint rate. As a result, ODI expanded the scope of this investigation to include all Grand Cherokees vehicles with the subject hood latch assemblies.

In performing EA02-029, it was determined that some of the secondary hood latches in the subject vehicles may exhibit increased operating frictional resistance; however, since none of the primary hood latches showed any evidence of mechanical or operational deficiency and the complaint rate of hood fly-ups measured over an extended exposure time was low, a safety-related defect trend has not been identified at this time.

VRTC 2-25-04