

**TEST REQUEST:** 1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee (EA02-029)

Sent via fax transmission

DEC 11 2002

Kathleen C. DeMott, Director  
Office of Defects Investigation

NVS-213cat  
EA02-029

Michael Monk, Director  
Vehicle Research and Test Center

This memorandum requests the Vehicle Research and Test Center (VRTC) to conduct testing as described below.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is currently investigating alleged hood latch failures in model year (MY) 1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles (EA02-029). During the Preliminary Evaluation (PE02-045), complaints received by ODI and DaimlerChrysler indicated that the hood latch assembly failed, causing the hood to open without warning while the vehicle was in motion.

**OBJECTIVE:**

The objectives of this testing are to obtain MY 1995-1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles to assess and measure the performance of the hood latch assembly.

**RECOMMENDED APPROACH:**

1. Develop a test survey vehicle matrix and procedure in conjunction with ODI to complete the objectives above.
2. Survey the hood latch assembly on MY 1995-1998 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles from one or more salt belt states to determine if the hood latch assembly is working properly, as well as, the possible cause for any assembly not working properly.
3. Obtain all secondary hood latches that are sticking or otherwise not working properly from the vehicles surveyed, as well as, a sample of secondary hood latches that are working properly and test the zinc plating thickness of each component (Catch, Bracket, Rivet, and Spring-Pawl) to determine if the plating thickness is a factor in any hood latch failure.

4. Conduct any other necessary tests on the hood latch assemblies, or components thereof, to accomplish the above objectives.

**TEST VEHICLE(S):**

In coordination with ODI, the Vehicle Research Test Center shall obtain complaint vehicles as required for testing.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The project engineer is Cheryl Tuosto (202-366-1869) who will discuss the details of the testing with your engineers. We would like to have VRTC's proposal of the procedure prior to test startup.

**FINAL REPORT:**

It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed as scheduling allows in coordination with ODI.

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