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NVS-210

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December 17, 2003

Mr. Jeff Quandt, Chief  
Vehicle Control Group  
Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS  
INVESTIGATION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth  
OFFICE OF DEFECTS  
INVESTIGATION  
Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

Dear Mr. Quandt:

Reference: NVS-213 cat; EA02-029

Per our meeting last week, you had requested additional information regarding the Jeep Grand Cherokee hood secondary latch investigation. The following information has been assembled to answer your questions:

- The vehicle survey that was completed and provided to NHTSA on September 30, 2002 included 184 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles from five different geographic areas of the United States and Canada. Of these vehicles, 14 were from a salt belt region. There were 5 vehicles from the survey that exhibited "sticky" latches, and 2 of the 5 were from the salt belt region. All latches inspected performed the secondary latch function properly.
- The revisions made to the service parts inventory of the hood secondary latch used for 1993-1999 model year Jeep Grand Cherokee (ZJ vehicles) were identical to those made for the 1994-1999 Dodge Ram pickup (BR/BE vehicles) recall for the secondary hood latch (NHTSA recall # 01V040). The attached chart details the component revisions for the secondary hood latch for both the 1994-1999 Dodge Ram pickup and the 1993-1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles. The corrosion protection was revised on each component of the secondary latch assembly, and the related material specifications were provided confidentially in previous submissions. The revisions to the Grand Cherokee secondary latch were incorporated into the service parts inventory with obsolescence of previous level parts in April, 2003.
- Three new Jeep Grand Cherokee hood secondary latch service parts are being provided for your examination and evaluation.

As we have stated earlier, reports regarding hoods opening without warning are isolated and in our opinion due to customers not fully closing the hood of their vehicle. Considering that these vehicles are now between 5 and 11 years old, the complaint rate for this condition is extremely low, is not increasing, and shows no trend suggesting a salt belt influence. Additionally, the owner's manual for these vehicles recommends periodic lubrication of hood latching components to insure proper function, which is not an unreasonable request for vehicles of this age.

Sincerely,

*For Stephan J. Speth*  
Stephan J. Speth  
Director  
Vehicle Compliance and Safety Affairs

Attachment

## Comparison of Hood Secondary Latch

		BRBE Original	BRBE Recall 01V040	ZJ Original	ZJ New Service Part
		88876367AB	88876367AC	88876322AB/88876322AB	88876322AC
1	CATCH	MS-88 PS-79 (Zn) Code 50 PS-606 A MS-PB45-2 Black / PS-7232	MS-88 PS-8855 (Zn-Ni) Code 30 PS-606 A MS-PB45-2 Black / PS-7232	MS-88 PS-79 (Zn) Code 50 PS-606 A MS-PB45-2 Black / PS-7232	MS-88 PS-8855 (Zn-Ni) Code 30 PS-606 A MS-PB45-2 Black / PS-7232
2	BRACKET	MS-88 PS-79 (Zn) Code 50 PS-606 A MS-PB45-2 Black / PS-7232	MS-88 PS-8855 (Zn-Ni) Code 30 PS-606 A MS-PB45-2 Black / PS-7232	MS-88 PS-79 (Zn) Code 50 PS-606 A MS-PB45-2 Black / PS-7232	MS-88 PS-8855 (Zn-Ni) Code 30 PS-606 A MS-PB45-2 Black / PS-7232
3	RIVET	MS-501 PS-79 (Zn) Code 50	MS-501 PS-8850E (Zn-Sn) PS-1207	MS-501 PS-79 (Zn) Code 50	MS-501 PS-8850E (Zn-Sn) PS-1207
4	SPRING - PAWL	MS-304 Chromium Nickel Stainless Steel	MS-304 Chromium Nickel Stainless Steel	MS-760 Spring Steel PS-77 Zinc Coating	MS-304 Chromium Nickel Stainless Steel
1	Rivet Shank Length	30.00	34.00	29.50	34.00
2	Inside width of bracket at Ears	27.00	30.34	27.00	30.34
3	Outside width of catch at Ears	26.00	26.34	26.31	26.34
4	Spring	No Change		10.5 coils, 1.5875 wire dia, 11.4 mean dia, .56 Nm initial load, .60 Nm final load	10.25 coils, 1.7018 wire dia, 11.4 mean dia, .73 Nm initial load, .81 Nm final load