

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

NHTSA
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

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OFFICE OF CHIEF
COUNSEL

October 10, 2003

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Stephan J. Speth
Director
Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Reference: NVS -213da; EA03-004

This document completes DaimlerChrysler's response to the referenced inquiry dated August 26, 2003 regarding information concerning wheel stud field experience on 1997 through 2003 DaimlerChrysler Voyager, Caravan, and Town & Country minivan vehicles.

DaimlerChrysler's review of complaints, warranty claims, and parts demand has not identified any issue with the subject vehicle's wheel retention system. We attribute the absence of these issues to our design philosophy, our adherence to stringent design standards, combined with our comprehensive vehicle testing program whereby vehicles undergo hundreds of thousands of miles of durability testing in a variety of environmental conditions prior to vehicle volume production. DaimlerChrysler has received a minimal number of complaints of wheel separation due to wheel stud fracture from a population of over 3.3 million of the subject vehicles, and most of those complaints can be attributed to improper removal or reinstallation of the wheel during vehicle servicing.

In summary, DaimlerChrysler's review of this information has identified no indication of any wheel retention system issue with the subject vehicles.

Sincerely,



Stephan J. Speth

Attachments and Enclosures