



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

Memorandum

Subject: **TEST REQUEST:** Alleged failure of the Ignition-Park Interlock System that can lead to vehicle rollaway.

Date: JUL 17 2003

Kathleen C. DeMeter
From: Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation

**Reply to
Attn. of:** NVS-210
EA03-011

To: 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 allegations that the ignition-park interlock system fails to operate on MY 1999 Plymouth Breeze, Dodge Stratus, and Chrysler Cirrus and Sebring Convertible models. Complaints allege that the ignition key can be removed while the shifter is in a non-Park position, or that the shifter can be moved from the Park position with the ignition turned off. Model years 1995 – 1998 of these same models were the subjects of recall 98V-183, which addressed a misadjusted interlock cable that could result in an inoperative ignition-park interlock system.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the testing is to determine if the alleged failure of the ignition-park interlock system represents a risk to motor vehicle safety.

TEST EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURE:

The test equipment and the procedure, which may involve an owner questionnaire, can be determined jointly by ODI and VRTC after further discussion.

TEST VEHICLE(S):

In coordination with ODI, the VRTC shall obtain appropriate complaint vehicles for testing.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Investigator is Scott Yon (Phone: 202/366-6761) who is available to discuss the details of the testing with your engineer.



FINAL REPORT:

It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed to a schedule to be determined in initial discussions with ODI.

cc:

Mr. Jeffrey Quandt, NVS-213

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