



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-066
Date Opened: 09/21/2004 Date Closed: 02/02/2005
Principal Investigator: Cheryl Tuosto
Subject: Tire Valve Failure

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation, DaimlerChrysler Manufacturing Intl, Freightliner LLC
Products: 2002-2004 MY DaimlerChrysler Sprinter 2500 and 3500
Population: 29,053

Problem Description: A tire valve allegedly fails resulting in rapid loss of tire pressure and an increase in the risk of a vehicle crash.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	11	13	24
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	43	43

*Description of Other: Tire valve warranty claims for MY 2002-2004 subject vehicles as of 10/29/04.

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed. Recall 04V-600.

Engineer: Cheryl Tuosto CAT

Date: 02/02/2005

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 02/02/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/02/2005

Summary: ODI opened PE04-066 to investigate five complaints alleging tire valve failure in my 2003-04 subject vehicles. Some of the complaints alleged multiple tire valve failures for a single vehicle.

On December 16, 2004, DaimlerChrysler Manufacturing International (DCMI) notified NHTSA of a safety defect in approximately 23,000 MY 2002-05 Sprinter 2500 vehicles equipped with TR-600 tire valves produced by Alligator Ventilfabrick GmbH (Recall 04V-600). The notification identified the chemical specification of the rubber components and an unstable supplier production process, which resulted in inadequate mixing of the rubber components, as the factors contributing to this defect. As a result of these factors, cracks can develop within the rubber part or between the metal and the rubber parts of the valve stem, which can lead to a loss of air pressure at the valve stem and may pose a risk to motor vehicle safety.

Although the TR-600 tire valve is used only on the 2500 series subject vehicles with 16 inch tires, DCMI will conduct a safety recall for all Sprinter 2500 vehicles sold in the U.S. to replace the current tire valves with a TR-600 valve, which uses a single rubber component for the valves.

All 24 complaints and all 43 warranty claims identified in this investigation involved MY 2002-04 Sprinter 2500 vehicles, which comprise approximately 84 percent of the subject vehicle population.

VLS
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