



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-031
Prompted By: PE04-054
Date Opened: 11/22/2004
Principal Investigator: John Abbott
Subject: Power Liftgate Latch

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Products: 2001 through 2003 Town & Country and Grand Caravan with PLG.
Population: 383,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Power liftgate (PLG) opening while driving.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	6	52	58
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	5	5

*Description Of Other: Law Suits

Action: Open Engineering Analysis.

Engineer: John Abbott

Date: 11/22/2004

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 11/22/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 11/22/2004

Summary: The Preliminary Evaluation (PE04-054) investigation was opened on July 30, 2004, based on nine ODI consumer complaints alleging unwanted opening of the vehicle's power liftgate (PLG) while driving.

In DaimlerChrysler Corporation (DCC)'s September 17, 2004 response to ODI's information request letter, it provided an additional 52 consumer complaints and 5 law suits. Three of the consumer complaints duplicated the ODI reports and the ODI failure report summary has been adjusted to six.

DCC states in part, "...the PLG latch becomes stuck in a semi-closed state not allowing the PLG latch to engage the striker, thus not closing the liftgate completely." In this condition the PLG ajar warning light will not be illuminated and the PLG can rise (not a powered open) while driving.

This investigation has been upgraded for further analysis.

11/23/04
JFA