



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 04-001
Prompted By: IE03-074
Date Opened: 01/28/2004
Principal Investigator: MICHAEL LEE
Subject: DRIVER AIR BAG CLOCKSPrING FAILURE

Manufacturer: DAIMLERCHRYSLER CORPORATION
Products: 1998-1999 CARAVAN, VOYAGER, AND TOWN AND COUNTRY
Population: 697,743 (est.)

Problem Description: COMPLAINTS ALLEGE DRIVER AIR BAG CLOCKSPrING FAILURE IDENTICAL TO THAT OF MODEL YEAR 1996 THROUGH 1998 DAIMLERCHRYSLER MINIVANS (BUILT THROUGH FEBRUARY 1998) RECALLED IN NOVEMBER 2002.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	109	0	109
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	0	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: A RECALL QUERY HAS BEEN OPENED.

Engineer: Michael Lee MJL
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: ODI has received 109 complaints that appear to be related to "open circuit" clockspring problem on certain model year 1998 and 1999 DaimlerChrysler minivans (built after Feb. 1998). Most of the complaints were reported during calendar year 2003. Most of the complaints indicated the clockspring failed resulting in illumination of air bag warning lamp and failure of horn and/or cruise control. This failure description is identical to that of model year 1996 through 1998 minivans (built through Feb. 1998) that are equipped with six-circuit clocksprings and that were recalled beginning November 2002. In its November 4, 2002 letter to NHTSA, DaimlerChrysler stated that model year 1998.5 through 2000 minivans that are equipped with seven-circuit clocksprings with a stronger (stiffer) cable/ribbon, do not have the problem of open circuit clocksprings. Thus, these vehicles were not included in the recall. See ODI investigation EA01-007 and safety recall 02V-293 for details.

*cab
1-28-04*