



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE05-056
Date Opened: 10/26/2005 Date Closed: 03/09/2006
Principal Investigator: Stephen McHenry
Subject: Steering wheel and shaft bolts

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Products: 2004 & 2005 Dodge Durango and 2005 Dodge Dakota
Population: 358,455

Problem Description: The steering wheel or steering shaft coupling bolts may be loose or missing resulting in a loss of steering control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	22	24
Crashes/Fires:	1	0	1
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	142	142

*Description of Other: warranty claims of loose or missing steering wheel or steering shaft bolts.

Action: This preliminary evaluation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA06-004).

Engineer: Stephen McHenry

Date: 03/09/2006

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 03/09/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 03/09/2006

Summary: On October 26, 2005 ODI opened PE05-056 to investigate allegations of loose or missing steering wheel or steering shaft coupling bolts in model year (MY) 2004 and 2005 Dodge Durango sport utility vehicles and MY 2005 Dodge Dakota pickup trucks manufactured by DaimlerChrysler Corporation (DCC). During PE05-056 ODI identified 3 owner complaints to ODI or DCC, 21 field reports to DCC and 142 warranty claims related to the alleged defect conditions. The reports and claims included 8 incidents of either steering wheel separation or steering shaft decoupling while driving due to loose or missing bolts. One of the failures resulted in a crash.

PE05-056 has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA06-004) to continue to investigate the scope, frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect.