



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: BA 05-022
Prompted By: Consumer complaints
Date Opened: 12/27/2005
Principal Investigator: John Abbott
Subject: Front Seat Belt Buckle Malfunction

Manufacturer: DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Products: 2002 Jeep Liberty
Population: 208,710

Problem Description: Alleged failure of the driver's seat belt buckle to latch, as well as, allegations of difficult to latch and unlatch.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	13	69	82
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	2,303	2,303

*Description Of Other: Warranty

Action: Open Engineering Analysis

Engineer: John Abbott *JAA*

Date: 12/27/2005

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 12/27/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 12/27/2005

Summary: The investigation of front seat belt buckles in the subject vehicles was opened on August 26, 2005 as PE05-046. The basis for opening was seven ODI reports alleging the driver's seat belt buckle failed to function properly. The complainants alleged the buckles would not latch or were difficult to latch or unlatch. Some of the complainants alleged something was broken inside of the buckle and others alleged that the "button" was stuck down and had to be pried up in order to latch the buckle.

DiamlerChrysler has provided additional consumer reports and information in its response to PE05-046. This investigation has been upgraded to an engineering analysis to continue to assess the safety consequences of buckle failures in the subject vehicles.

JAA
12/27/05