

JAN 10 2007

Stephan J. Speth
Director, Vehicle Safety & Regulatory
DaimlerChrysler Corporation
800 Chrysler Drive
CIMS 482-00-91
Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2757

Re: DaimlerChrysler Request for Confidential Treatment for Information
Provided in EA06-015

Dear Mr. Speth:

This responds to your letter dated December 8, 2006, in which you request confidential treatment for information submitted by DaimlerChrysler Corporation (DCC) in response to the above agency request. The information in your submission is contained on a single CD-ROM disk identified as "EA06-015 Question #11," dated December 7, 2006. The information is divided into four folders containing information claimed as confidential -- "EA06-015 - Confidential - DCC Design," "EA06-015 - Confidential - DCC Problem Solving," "EA06-015 - Confidential -DCC Test Procedures," and "EA06-015 - Confidential - DCC Test Results". DCC requests permanent confidential treatment for this information. (The disk also contains a folder of non-confidential information -- "EA06-015 - Not Confidential" -- for which DCC does not seek confidential treatment.)

I have decided to grant your request.

The agency reviewed DCC's claim for confidential treatment under the test announced in *National Parks & Conservation Ass'n v. Morton*, 498 F.2d 765 (D.C. Cir. 1974) and its progeny. Under that test, information is confidential under Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), if its disclosure is likely to cause substantial competitive harm to the submitter or to impair the government's ability to collect the information in the future.

DCC's submission contains four folders containing e-mails relating to the design, testing, and problem solving methodologies used with respect to the integrated circuit boards used in Dodge Durango vehicles. This information is not readily available to the public and is detailed in its presentation of the process followed by DCC to identify and resolve potential problems identified in its vehicles. I have determined that this information, if disclosed, would be likely to cause DCC to suffer substantial competitive harm. Accordingly, I am granting your request.

This grant of confidential treatment is subject to certain conditions. The information may be disclosed under 49 CFR § 512.22 based upon newly discovered or changed facts, and you must inform the agency of any changed circumstances that may affect the protection of the information (49 CFR § 512.10). If necessary, you will be notified prior to the release of any information under the procedures established by our regulations (49 CFR § 512.22(b)).

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Otto G. Matheke, III
Senior Attorney

NHTSA:NCC-111mk:12/09/06:cyt
NCC-113 Subj/Chron, mk, om, cyt **NCC06-007762**
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