



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Memorandum

Subject: EA06-003

Date: June 5, 2006

From: *m.lee*
Michael Lee, Safety Defects Engineer
Office of Defects Investigation

Rsply to: NVS-212mjl
Attn of: EA06-003

To: Public File

Attached is a series of e-mail correspondence between the staffs of Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) and DaimlerChrysler (DC) regarding request number 15 of ODI's information request letter to DC, dated May 15, 2006.

#

Lee, Michael <NHTSA>

From: Lee, Michael <NHTSA>
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 2:40 PM
To: 'ddd6@daimlerchrysler.com'
Cc: ljs11@daimlerchrysler.com; Cooper, Thomas <NHTSA>
Subject: RE: EA06-003 IR letter - Question 15

Dino,

You do not need to provide any data related to any standard sled test. You do not need to provide the complete computer modeling data. However, if any sled test or computer model was done to evaluate occupant protection without the function or simulation of the front crash sensors, then please provide all available data for any such sled test or computer model. Otherwise, please provide summaries of the computer modeling data. After reviewing the summary data, if necessary, we will request the complete computer modeling data.

Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Michael Lee
 Safety Defects Engineer
 Office of Defects Investigation
 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 Tel: (202) 366-5236
 Fax: (202) 366-1767
mlee@dot.gov

From: ddd6@daimlerchrysler.com [mailto:ddd6@daimlerchrysler.com]
Sent: Monday, June 05, 2006 10:16 AM
To: Lee, Michael <NHTSA>
Cc: ljs11@daimlerchrysler.com; Cooper, Thomas <NHTSA>
Subject: RE: EA06-003 IR letter - Question 15

Mike,

Thanks for the clarification of the crash testing.

I have some additional questions regarding question 15 of the IR that I should have asked you the first time around, but I will ask you now. We also have found a couple other items that may be responsive to Q15 of the IR on the topic of crash testing:

- A dozen or so CD's of sled testing conducted at the front airbag supplier (Key Safety Systems) that is in the possession of one of our engineers. Note that we do not have a complete set of data as I could not get a summary sheet for the supplier testing. It is mostly just raw data and videos of the sled testing for the 2005 RS body of testing conducted at the supplier facility. I noticed you didn't request any of the DC facility sled data so I wasn't sure that you would want this. But I didn't want to assume anything without asking you. My opinion is that this doesn't add much to the substance of Q15 response as you will already have the most representative vehicle crash data, but I will gladly make copies of all the CD's and supply them with the response should you want them.
- There is some front crash computer modelling for the non-208 frontal crash conditions. I am asking our computer modelling group to supply me with whatever summaries they have with regard to 2005 / 2006 RS body frontal crash simulations they ran. But they inform me that the actual computer model is very large (a few gigabytes of data) and I don't know if you actually

6/5/2006

want a copy of the model or if the summaries are adequate. Again, I can make a copy of the model if you want it.

Please let me know what your position is on these two items when you get a chance. Thank you.

Dino

<Michael.Lee@dot.gov>

05/29/2006 02:05 PM

To: <ddd6@daimlerchrysler.com>

CC: <ljs11@daimlerchrysler.com>, <Thomas.Cooper@dot.gov>

Subject: RE: EA06-003 IR letter - Question 15

Dino,

As we discussed earlier via telephone, please provide all test data (videos, reports, etc.) as requested in the question for the following tests (total of 46 tests) from DaimlerChrysler's responses dated 5/9/06 and 5/15/06:

Enclosure 1:

All 22 tests in the enclosure.

Enclosure 2:

VC08993 VC08994 VC08999 VC09019 VC09037 VC09434 VC09592 VC09960 VC09993 VC10070
VC10104 VC10114 VC10115 VC10132 VC10370 VC10680 VC10989 VC11175 VC11577

Enclosure 3:

VC09754 VC09994 VC11558 VC11895 VC11994

If necessary, NHTSA in the future will request the test data of any remaining tests in the May responses. Also, if there are any additional tests that may be responsive to the above question but were not included in the May responses, please inform me.

Michael Lee

Safety Defects Engineer
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Tel: (202) 366-5236
Fax: (202) 366-1767
mlee@dot.gov

From: ddd6@daimlerchrysler.com [mailto:ddd6@daimlerchrysler.com]

Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2006 4:13 PM

To: Lee, Michael <NHTSA>

Cc: ljs11@daimlerchrysler.com

Subject: Re: EA06-003 IR letter attached

6/5/2006

Mike,

I have reviewed the questions in the EA letter and I have a specific question regarding Q15. As this question is worded and given the broad definition of "document" this question is requesting all data related to all vehicle crash, sled tests and computer simulation with regard to development of the front airbag system for the subject vehicles.

I wanted to bring to your attention the implications of this request. There are in excess of 150 vehicle crash and sled tests for the subject vehicles conducted at DCC. Most of these tests (in excess of 100) include frontal impact test modes (FMVSS 208 or otherwise) that include several camera views of dummy and crash dynamics. This video data requires a large amount of memory. For example, each movie is downloaded in an uncompressed AVI format and each camera view typically requires 200-300 megabytes of memory. Most of these tests have several camera views so that it is not uncommon for a single test to require 1 - 2 Gigabytes of memory just for the video. This takes a significant amount of time to download from our servers. The AVI format can be compressed subsequently but even in the compressed form there will still be an extraordinary amount of data to transfer to NHTSA (probably in the range of 30 -50 gigabytes of data or approximately 6 to 10 DVD's). In addition, the man hours at DCC to complete this single task is significant. To download all camera views and compress the videos will require approximately 20 minutes per test. This equates to 3 tests per hour, so if there are over 100 tests this will take nearly the time of a full 40 hour work week for one person to simply retrieve the movies. Furthermore, a portion of the older tests are not in digital format and will have to be digitized and separately burned to DVD's. Please keep in mind that this will be in response to just one part of question 15. (the balance of the test data including electronic channel data, photos, test setup sheets, etc are additional as are the computer simulations and supplier testing information in DCC's possession)

My question is whether you were aware of the magnitude of this request and really want to sort through all of this data. If so, then it can be done. However, I will need to discuss with my boss how we best handle this and acquire the additional resources and time to complete this task. I do believe that, based on Q 15 alone, we will be asking for more time to complete this EA response if you decide you will require all of this.

If you decide that you do not require the movies from all tests, then I would propose it would be helpful to be more selective on which tests you require videos for.

Please advise in writing your response on how to handle this portion of this IR. Thank you.

Dino DePaolis
Supervisor - Product Investigations
DaimlerChrysler Corporation

<Michael.Lee@dot.gov>

05/18/2006 02:24 PM

To <ddd@daimchrysler.com>

cc

Subject: EA06-003 IR letter attached

6/5/2006

Hello Dino,

I got your phone message. Attached is the IR letter in Word. Let me know if you have any questions.

Michael Lee
Safety Defects Engineer
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
Tel: (202) 366-5236
Fax: (202) 366-1767
mlee@dot.gov

<<EA06-003.IR1.doc>> [attachment "EA06-003.IR1.doc" deleted by Dino D DePaolis/SCMDCC/DCX]