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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE07-062
Date Opened: 12/17/2007 Date Closed: 04/18/2008
Principal Investigator: Stephen McHenry
Subject: Upper Ball Joint Separation

Manufacturer: Chrysler LLC.
Products: 2002 and 2003 Jeep Liberty 4x4
Population: 305,577

Problem Description: Front Suspension upper ball joint may separate while driving.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	22	74	83
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: The Preliminary Evaluation has been closed. Engineering Analysis EA08-008 has been opened.

Engineer: *Stephen McHenry* SM 4/ Date: *04/18/2008*
Div. Chief: *Jeffrey L. Quandt* Date: *04/18/2008*
Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter* Date: *04/18/2008*

Summary: ODI has received 22 complaints of upper ball joint separation on Model Year 2002 and 2003 Jeep Liberty 4x4 vehicles. The separation of an upper ball joint on either of the front wheels can result in the affected front wheel collapsing, possibly resulting in vehicle disablement and causing a loss of vehicle control. There is one complaint of a failure at 75 mph, 1 failure at 60 mph, 3 failures at 40 mph, 2 failures at 25 mph, 7 failures occurring while the driver was pulling into the flow of traffic and 2 failures that occurred when the driver was attempting to make a left turn across the flow of oncoming traffic. One complainant alleged almost being hit by an oncoming truck as a result of the vehicle suddenly being disabled in the flow of crossing traffic. Another reported the collapse of the front right wheel when making a left turn caused the vehicle to swerve to the right, as a result of which the vehicle ended up in a ditch just missing a collision with a telephone pole.

Chrysler LLC., is continuing to investigate the cause of upper ball joint separations in the subject vehicles. ODI has upgraded the investigation to an Engineering Analysis (EA08-008) to continue to asses the scope, frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect.