



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Memorandum

Subject: **TEST REQUEST:** EA07-007, Engine Stalling, MY2006-07
Jeep Commander vehicles.

Date: MAR 28 2008

From: Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation

Reply to
Attn. of: NVS-213cnl

To: Michael Monk, Director
Vehicle Research and Test Center

BACKGROUND: The model year (MY) 2006 Jeep Commander sport utility vehicles equipped with 4.7L engines and built from product launch in July 2005 through a vapor purge recalibration January 10, 2006 have experienced high complaint rates for engine stalling (approximately 2.5%). The majority of complaints allege stalls at speeds of 20-30 mph, often during turning maneuvers.

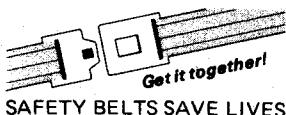
There have been four crashes reported in these vehicles, all at estimated speeds of 20 mph or less. One crash occurred when the vehicle stalled on a hill and was rear-ended resulting in minor damage. Another crash occurred when the vehicle stalled as it was turning into a convenience store parking lot, allegedly causing the vehicle to jump a curb and strike a tree. A third stall allegedly caused the vehicle to strike a curb and cause a tire "blow-out." The fourth crash allegation involved a stalled vehicle striking another vehicle in the rear due to loss of power assist to the brakes.

Chrysler maintains that the condition responsible for the high stalling complaint rate has not and cannot result in stalls at highway speeds and also allows the vehicle to be immediately restarted. Chrysler disputes consumer allegations of loss of steering and/or braking capacity after a stall and provided data showing brake effectiveness for several applications after stall event.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the testing is to assess the effects of an engine stall event on braking and steering efforts.

TEST VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND PROCEDURE: Testing should be performed on a original condition MY 2006 Jeep Commander equipped with the 4.7L V8 engine and built before January 10, 2006.

Additional testing may be conducted to answer remaining questions.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The ODI investigator is Chris Lash, chris.lash@nhtsa.dot.gov 202-366-2370. The ODI division chief is Jeffrey Quandt, jeff.quandt@dot.gov, 202-366-5207. The investigator and division chief should be updated at least bi-weekly of test program status/progress.

FINAL REPORT: It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed to a schedule to be determined in discussion with ODI.

#