



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-047
Date Opened: 07/25/2008 Date Closed: 12/17/2008
Principal Investigator: Lawrence Hershman
Subject: 2000-2001 Dodge Ram Pickup Hood Latch

Manufacturer: Chrysler LLC
Products: 2000-2001 Dodge Ram Pickup Trucks
Population: 772,120

Problem Description: The secondary hood latch may stick open and not secure the hood. If the primary hood latch fails or is not engaged, the hood could open unexpectedly while driving.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	37	436	473
Crashes/Fires:	0	4	4
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other:	0	976	976

Description of Other: All Hood Related Warranty Claims

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed.

Engineer: Lawrence L. Hershman LH
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 12/17/2008
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Summary:

The agency opened this investigation based on 30 complaints alleging that the hoods on Model Year (MY) 2000 and 2001 Dodge Ram Pickup trucks flew up and blocked the drivers' vision. These vehicles have a primary hood latch and a secondary (backup) hood latch. The secondary latch is designed to secure the hood if the primary hood latch is not properly closed or otherwise malfunctions. In these complaints, the secondary hood latch malfunctioned, apparently due to corrosion, and did not latch. Dodge conducted Recall 01V-040 in 1999 to address similar problems on Model Year 1994-1997 Dodge Ram Pickup trucks.

The information Chrysler provided in response to ODI's information request letter indicated that the MY 2000 and 2001 vehicles were equipped with secondary hood latches with stainless steel return springs, as opposed to the earlier recalled trucks that had zinc coated carbon steel return springs. The recalled components were susceptible to

continued on page 2

corrosion-induced failure due to the type of material used, whereas the corrosion failures in the newer models appear to be due to lubrication loss over time (regular application of grease is advised per instructions in the owners' manual).

ODI's review of Chrysler's warranty, complaint, and injury data for the 2000 and 2001 vehicles indicates that the failure rates for the subject vehicles are low and are declining. A potential defect trend has not been identified. This investigation is closed.