



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-047
Date Opened: 07/25/2008
Principal Investigator: Lawrence Hershman
Subject: Hood Latch Failure

Manufacturer: Chrysler LLC
Products: 2000-2001 Dodge Ram Pickup Trucks
Population: 697,480 (estimated)

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.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	30		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other:	0		

Description of Other:

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

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

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Summary:

ODI has received 30 complaints from owners of 2000-2001 Dodge Ram pickup trucks who, while driving, had their hoods unexpectedly open, blocking their visibility and in some cases smashing into and damaging their windshield and/or roof. The agency has also received Early Warning Reports on this issue.

The secondary hood latch may bind and not secure the hood. Many of the complaints specify that the secondary hood latch components were corroded. The corrosion appears to prevent the latch from operating properly. If the secondary hood latch binds when the hood is opened, it may not engage the locking components when the hood is then closed.

In most cases, secondary hood latch malfunction would not be obvious to the driver. If the primary hood latch were to fail or not be engaged, the hood could open unexpectedly while the vehicle is under way. Sudden and unexpected opening of the hood startles drivers, blocks their visibility, and could lead to a crash into other vehicles or objects.