

Enclosure 6: Q8 Response

- A8. In relation to previously recalled BR/BE vehicles, the subject vehicles have an upgraded secondary latch design including a stainless steel return spring. Three corrosion tests were performed to assess this design enhancement, further design enhancements provided in the service kit remedy for recall 01V-040 / Chrysler recall 973, as well as the benefit of lubrication on the subject components. These test reports are being submitted as Enclosure 7 – CONF BUS INFO to the Office of the Chief Counsel, under separate cover with a request for confidential treatment of information.
- a. All three tests were performed by Chrysler Materials Engineering lab to evaluate robustness to corrosion of the secondary hood latch relative to performing its intended function. The corrosion tests are designed to accelerate corrosion so that long term effects can be assessed in a relatively short time.
  - b. The start dates of the three tests were approximately: July of 1997 for the first test, December of 2000 for the second test and June of 2001 for the third test.
  - c. The end dates of the three tests were approximately: September of 1997 for the first test, April of 2001 for the second test and June of 2001 for the third test.
  - d. The purpose of the first test was to assess the stainless steel return spring secondary latch robustness to corrosive environments compared to that of the previous zinc coated return spring secondary latch design (subject of recall 01V-040 / Chrysler recall 973). The purpose of the second test was to assess the secondary latch corrosion robustness of both the zinc coated return spring and stainless steel return springs with and without grease. The purpose of the third test was to assess the service kit remedy for recall 01V-040 / Chrysler recall 973.
  - e. Chrysler Engineering was responsible for designing, conducting, and analyzing both of these actions.

The first test showed that the secondary latch design with the stainless steel return spring (as in the subject vehicles) provided significantly improved corrosion resistance when compared to the prior zinc plated carbon steel return spring secondary latch design. The second test results confirmed that proper lubrication, as recommended, prolongs the life of the secondary latch. The results of the third test show that the proposed service kit for recall 01V-040 / Chrysler recall 973 was an appropriate remedy to address field issues with the secondary latch in the affected vehicles.