




U.S. Department
of Transportation

Memorandum

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

Subject: Test Request: Loss of Headlamp Illumination Date: August 2, 2011

From: Frank S. Borris, Director 
Office of Defects Investigation Reply to: NVS-212am
Attn of: PE10-022

To: Roger Saul, Director
Vehicle Research and Test Center

This memorandum requests the Vehicle Research and Test Center (VRTC) to conduct the testing and evaluation as described below.

BACKGROUND: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is conducting a Preliminary Evaluation (PE10-022) concerning loss of headlight illumination in model year (MY) 2005 Chrysler Minivans. Complainants have stated that while driving the vehicle, the headlights can shut off resulting in loss of roadway illumination. As of August 2011, there have been 138 VOQ reports associated with the alleged defect in the subject vehicles, and Chrysler data shows a significant level of failures in service usage.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of this test program is to evaluate the alleged defect. ODI would like to determine what would cause the headlamps to turn off while driving the vehicle. A survey of subject vehicle owners local to the VRTC facility may be beneficial, and testing of a potentially affected subject vehicle should be considered.

METHODOLOGY/TEST PROCEDURES: VRTC should determine the methodology and test procedures necessary to meet the objectives of this test program. The testing shall include monitoring the electrical circuits of the headlamps using a method to be determined in consultation with ODI, recording the electrical system functionality during a failure, assessing any temperature, contamination, or corrosion affects, especially on the electrical connectors that send signals to the Body Control Module (BCM) and other electrical components, and thereby determining and assessing the cause of the failure.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The project engineer at ODI is Ali Motamedamin who will discuss the details of this test request with VRTC.

SCHEDULE: We would like to have the testing completed at VRTC's earliest convenience.