



July 22, 2011

Mr. Frank Borris, Director

Vehicle Integrity Division (VID), NVS-212
U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
Office of Defects Investigation (ODI)
Room W48-314
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Reference: NVS-212llh; EA11-006

Dear Mr. Borris:

Attached is Chrysler Group LLC's ("Chrysler") response to the referenced inquiry. By providing the information contained herein, Chrysler is not waiving its claim to attorney work product and attorney-client privileged communications.

Chrysler has conducted a reasonable and diligent search of its data repositories and has identified 11 unique VINs with complaints that may relate to the alleged condition involving fuel tank strap or mounting hardware integrity. With over 2.2 million 1997 – 2004 Dodge Ram 1500 subject peer vehicles in the field for over 10 years (on average), this translates into 0.5 complaints per 100,000 subject peer vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David D. Dillon".

David D. Dillon

Attachment and Enclosures

Preliminary Statement

On April 30, 2009 Chrysler LLC, the entity that manufactured and sold the vehicles that are the subject of this Information Request, filed a voluntary petition for relief under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code.

On June 10, 2009, Chrysler LLC sold substantially all of its assets to a newly formed company now known as Chrysler Group LLC. Pursuant to the sales transaction, Chrysler Group LLC assumed responsibility for safety recalls pursuant to the 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301 for vehicles that were manufactured and sold by Chrysler LLC prior to the June 10, 2009 asset sale.

On June 11, 2009, Chrysler LLC changed its name to Old Carco LLC. The assets of Old Carco LLC that were not purchased by Chrysler Group LLC, as well as the liabilities of Old Carco that were not assumed, remain under the jurisdiction of the United States Bankruptcy Court – Southern District of New York (*In re Old Carco LLC, et al.*, Case No. 09-50002).

Note: Unless indicated otherwise in the response to a question, this document contains information through July 5, 2010, the date the information request was received.

1. Separately, for each model and model year subject peer vehicles, list and describe the subject components installed on the subject peer vehicles. The description shall include the materials composition of the fuel strap(s) or similar components, and platings/coatings (specific description of constituents, proportions and thicknesses), as well as bottom view drawings or illustrations of the subject component showing the locations of the fuel tank and strap(s) (or other securing device(s)), and their placement in relation to the frame and other components, including but not limited to, brake lines. Identify (name and address) of the suppliers of the subject components.

A1. The detailed response that describes the material and plating/coatings for the subject components in the subject peer vehicles is provided in Enclosure 1A – Subject Component Descriptions CONF BUS INFO. The response that shows the bottom view pictures of the subject peer vehicles is provided in Enclosure 1B – Underbody Graphics. The table listing all of the supplier information for the subject component fuel tank straps that were used on the subject peer vehicles is provided in Enclosure 1C – Supplier Info CONF BUS INFO. Enclosures 1A and 1C have been submitted under separate cover to the NHTSA Chief Counsel’s Office with a request for confidential treatment.

2. State, by model and model year, the number of subject vehicles Chrysler has manufactured for sale or lease in the United States. Separately, for each subject vehicle manufactured to date by Chrysler, state the following:

- a. **Vehicle identification number (VIN);**
- b. **Make;**
- c. **Model;**
- d. **Model year;**
- e. **Date of manufacture;**
- f. **Date warranty coverage commenced;**
- g. **The State in the United States where the vehicle was originally sold or leased (or delivered for sale or lease).**

Provide the table in Microsoft Access 2007, or a compatible format, entitled “PRODUCTION DATA.”

A2. The subject peer vehicles for the US market are the 1997 – 2004 model year (MY) Dodge Ram 1500 vehicles and referred to as the BR/BE body model for the 1997 to 2001 model years and the DR body model for the 2002 – 2004 model years. The total number of subject peer vehicles manufactured by Chrysler for sale or lease for the US market was 2,231,951.

The detailed response that lists the production data is provided in Enclosure 2 as a Microsoft Access 2010 table titled “PRODUCTION DATA (EA11-006).”

- 3. State the number of each of the following, received by Chrysler, or of which Chrysler is otherwise aware, which relate to, or may relate to, the subject condition in the subject peer vehicles:**
- a. Consumer complaints;**
 - b. Field reports, including dealer field reports;**
 - c. Reports involving a crash, fire, injury, or fatality, based on claims against the manufacturer involving a death or injury, notices received by the manufacturer alleging or proving that a death or injury was caused by a possible defect in a subject vehicle, property damage claims, consumer complaints, or field reports;**
 - d. Property damage claims;**
 - e. Third-party arbitration proceedings where Chrysler is or was a party to the arbitration; and**
 - f. Lawsuits, both pending and closed, in which Chrysler is or was a defendant or codefendant.**

For subparts “a” through “d” state the total number of each item (e.g., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) separately. Multiple incidents involving the same vehicle are to be counted separately. Multiple reports of the same incident are also to be counted separately (i.e., a consumer complaint and a field report involving the same incident in which a crash occurred are to be counted as a crash report, a field report and a consumer complaint).

In addition, for items “c” through “f,” provide a summary description of the alleged problem and causal and contributing factors and Chrysler’s assessment of the problem, with a summary of the significant underlying facts and evidence. For items “c through f” identify the parties to the action, as well as the caption, court, docket number, and date on which the complaint or other document initiating the action was filed.

- A3. The following summarizes the reports identified by Chrysler that relate to, or may relate to, the alleged condition in the subject peer vehicles. Chrysler has conducted a reasonable and diligent search of the normal repositories of such information.
- a. There are 12 consumer complaints (Customer Assistance Inquiry Request or CAIR) that may relate to the alleged condition for the subject peer vehicles, which represents 11 unique VINs.
 - b. There are no field reports for the alleged condition in the subject peer vehicles.
 - c. There are no reports of the alleged condition resulting in crash, fire, injury or fatality for the subject peer vehicles.
 - d. There are no reports of the alleged condition resulting in property damage for the subject peer vehicles.

- e. There are no third-party arbitration proceedings with Chrysler relating to the alleged condition and the subject peer vehicles.
- f. There are no legal claims involving the subject peer vehicles for the alleged condition.

Based on the analysis of these complaints for the subject peer vehicles, Chrysler has determined that there are a total of 12 complaints which represent 11 unique VINs. Based on discussion with ODI, Chrysler has not included any complaints of rusted fuel tank straps that were not reported to have broken.

- 4. **Separately, for each item (complaint, report, claim, notice, or matter) within the scope of your response to Request No. 3, state the following information:**
 - a. **Chrysler's file number or other identifier used;**
 - b. **The category of the item, as identified in Request No. 3 (i.e., consumer complaint, field report, etc.);**
 - c. **Vehicle owner or fleet name (and fleet contact person), address, and telephone number;**
 - d. **Vehicle's VIN;**
 - e. **Vehicle's make, model and model year;**
 - f. **Vehicle's mileage at time of incident;**
 - g. **Incident date;**
 - h. **Report or claim date;**
 - i. **Whether a fuel tank strap (or other similar device used to secure the fuel tank to the vehicle) allegedly failed (separated), and if so;**
 - i) **Whether one, more than one, or all of the straps/devices failed;**
 - ii) **Whether the fuel tank allegedly contacted the roadway;**
 - iii) **Whether fuel leakage allegedly occurred;**
 - iv) **Whether the fuel tank allegedly separated from the vehicle;**
 - j. **Whether brake fluid leakage allegedly occurred (as a result of the subject condition);**
 - k. **Whether the report is duplicative of another report provided in this response;**
 - l. **Whether a crash is alleged;**
 - m. **Whether property damage is alleged;**
 - n. **Number of alleged injuries, if any; and**
 - o. **Number of alleged fatalities, if any.**

Provide this information in Microsoft Access 2007, or a compatible format, entitled "REQUEST NUMBER THREE DATA."

- A4. The detailed response that lists the customer complaints (there are no field reports, legal claims or lawsuits) from Request No. 3, as requested in Items a. through o. is provided in Enclosure 4 CONF BUS INFO in a Microsoft Access 2010 table, titled "Request Number Three Data (EA11-006)" which has been

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ATTACHMENT

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submitted under separate cover to the NHTSA Chief Counsel's Office with a request for confidential treatment.

5. Produce copies of all documents related to each item within the scope of Request No. 3. Organize the documents separately by category (i.e., consumer complaints, field reports, etc.) and describe the method Chrysler used for organizing the documents.

- A5. Copies of all documents within the scope of Request No. 3 are provided in Enclosure 5 – Field Data CONF BUS INFO which has been submitted under separate cover to the NHTSA Chief Counsel's Office with a request for confidential treatment. There are no Field Reports or Legal Claims and for the customer complaints, there is a CAIR summary file submitted in one .pdf file with the related documents arranged in folders by CAIR number.

EA11-006

CHRYSLER

7-22-2011

Enclosure 1B -
Underbody Graphics
1997 - 2001 BR BE
Fuel Tank Graphics

The underbody graphics in this file are of a 1997 BR body. The subject components and their surroundings are substantially similar for the 1998 thru 2001 BR/BE Body.



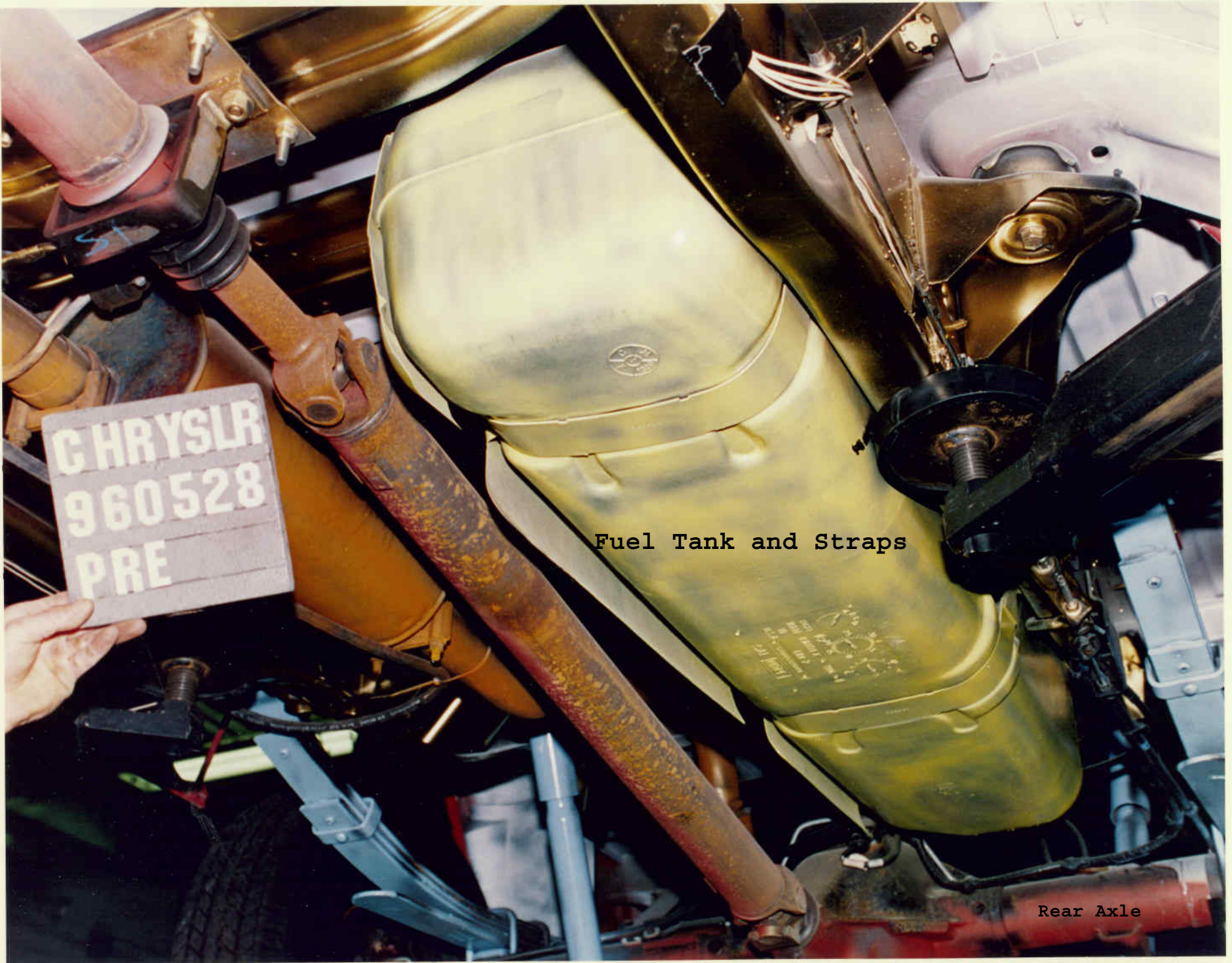
A-15



Fuel Tank and Straps

Driveshaft

Photo No. A-15 - Pre-Test Mid Underbody View



Fuel Tank and Straps

Rear Axle

Figure A-11 Pre-Test Fuel Tank View



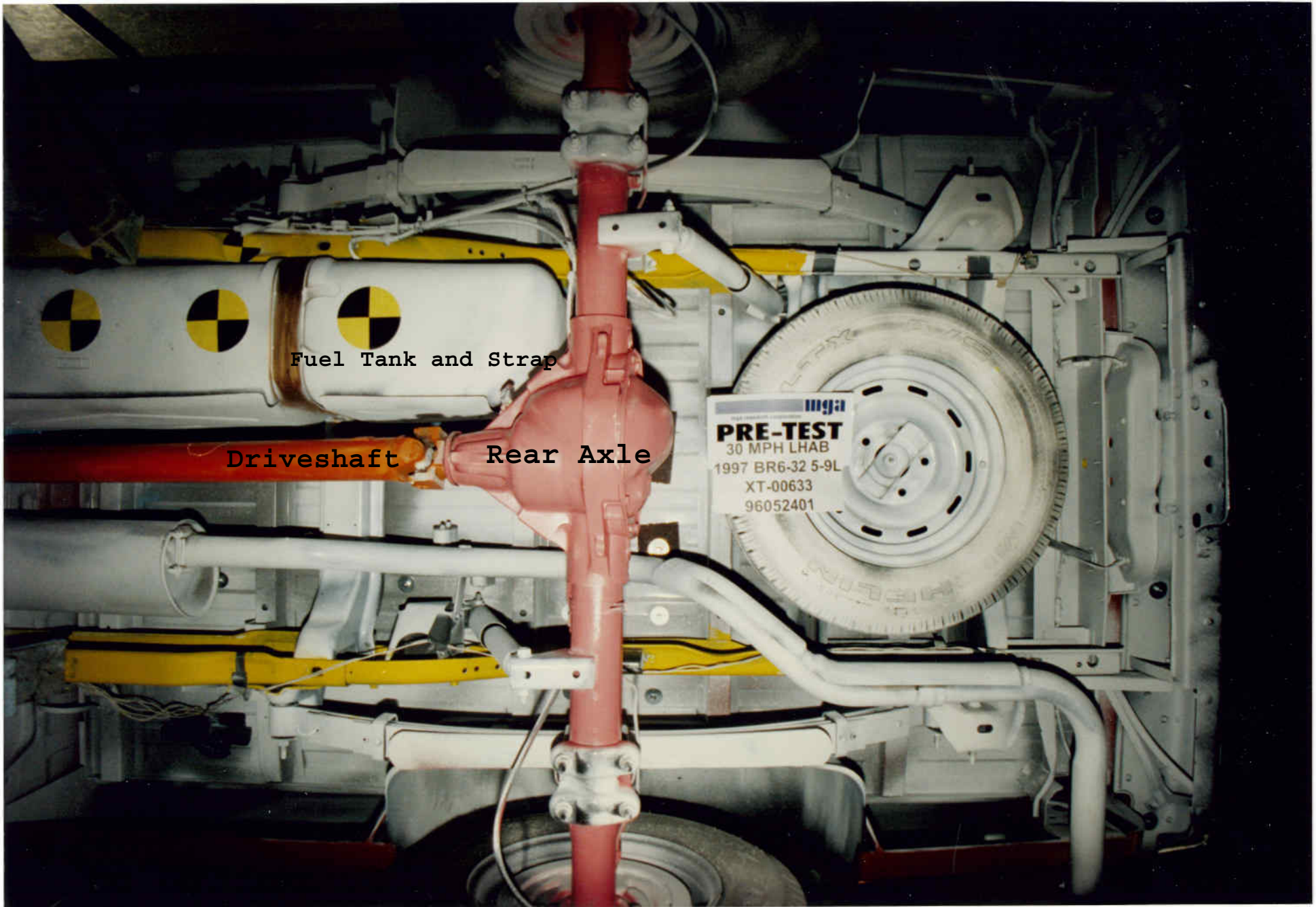
Rear Axle

Fuel Tank and Straps

CHRYSLER
XTTR 207
PRE

Figure A-11 Pre-Test Fuel Tank View

A-15



Fuel Tank and Strap

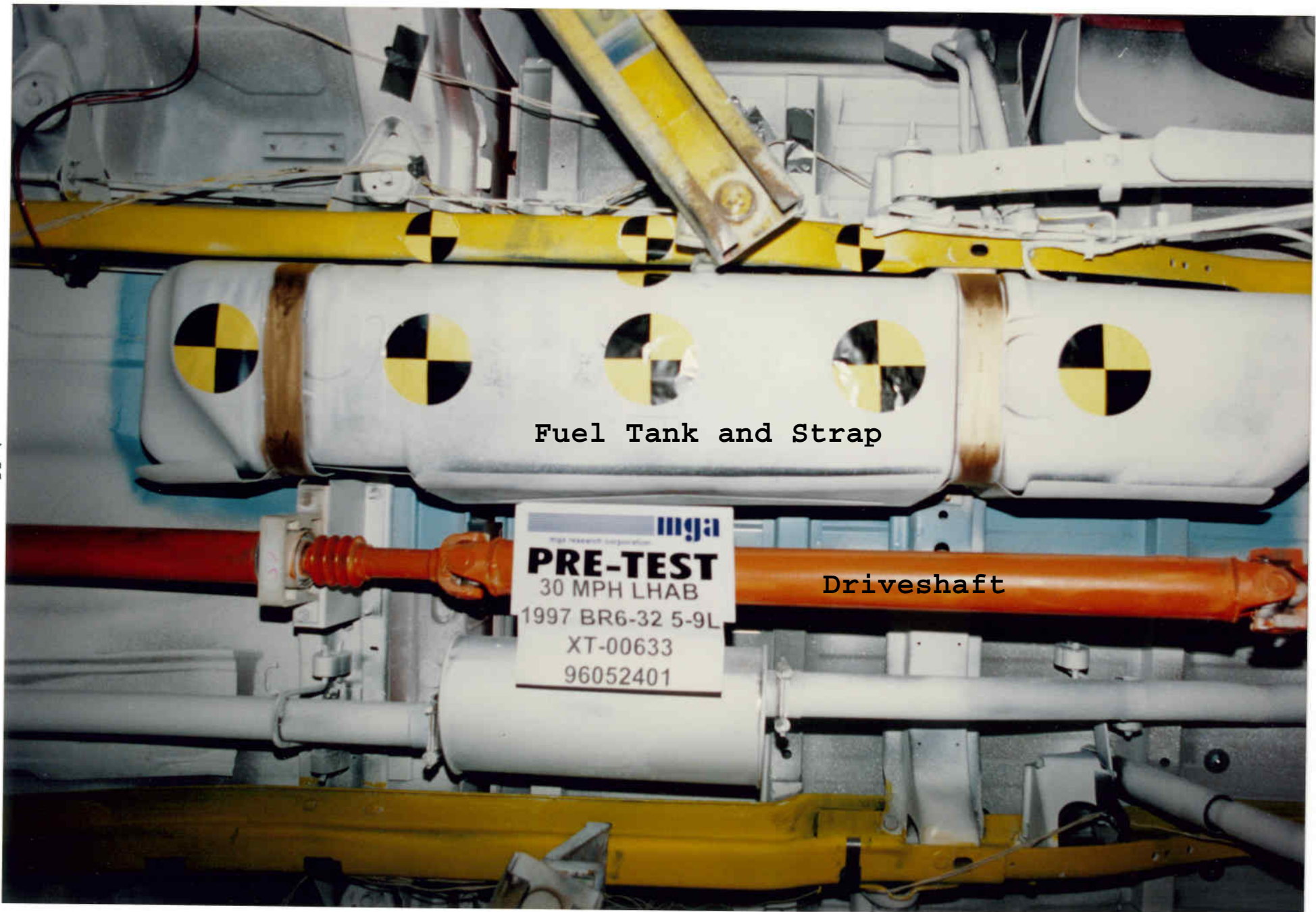
Driveshaft

Rear Axle

mga
PRE-TEST
30 MPH LHAB
1997 BR6-32 5-9L
XT-00633
96052401

Photo No. A-15 - Pre-Test Rear Underbody View

A-55

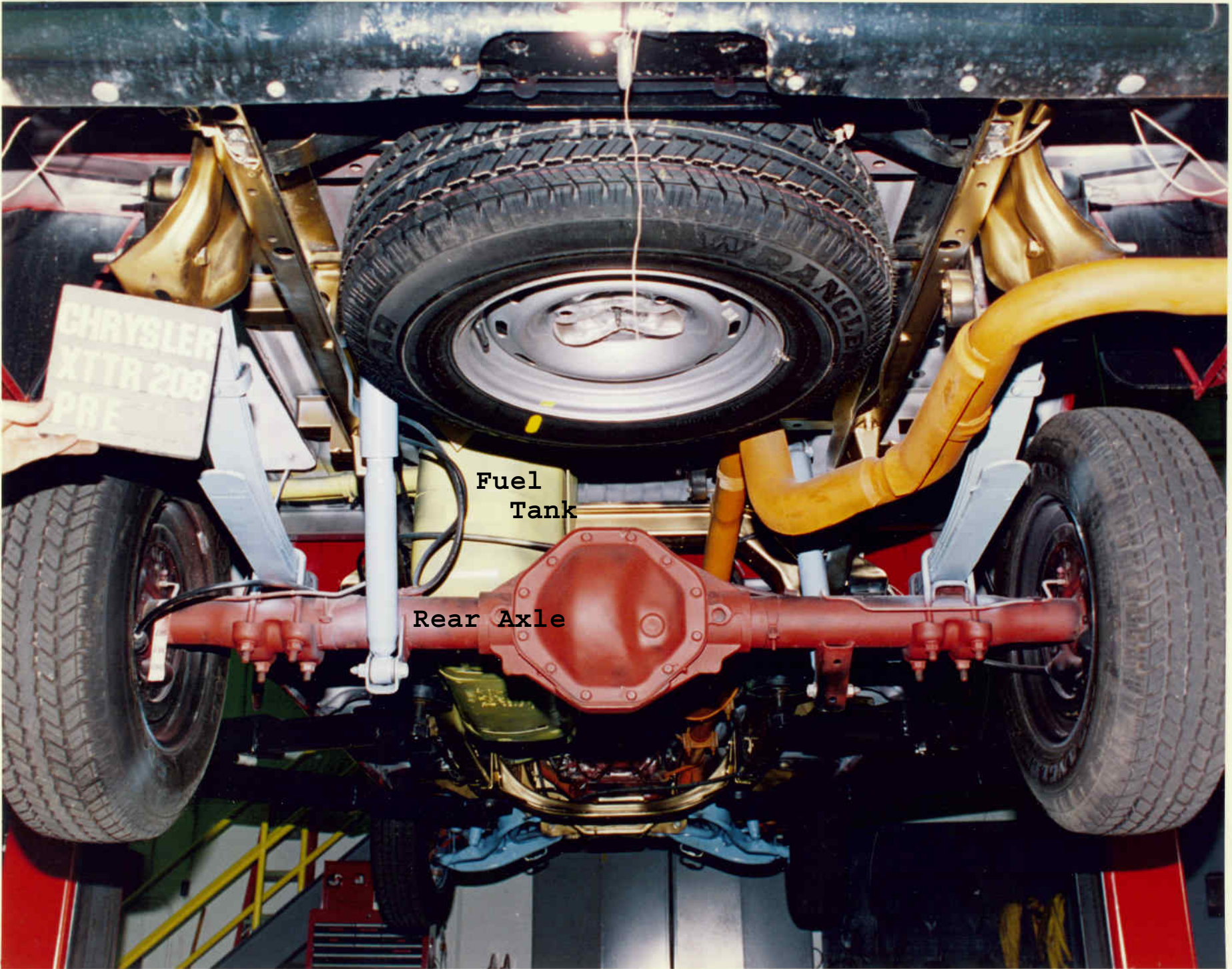


Fuel Tank and Strap

Driveshaft

mga
MGA Research Corporation
PRE-TEST
30 MPH LHAB
1997 BR6-32 5-9L
XT-00633
96052401

Photo No. A-55 - Pre-Test Fuel Tank



Fuel
Tank

Rear Axle

Figure A-10 Pre-Test Rear Underbody View

XTTR208

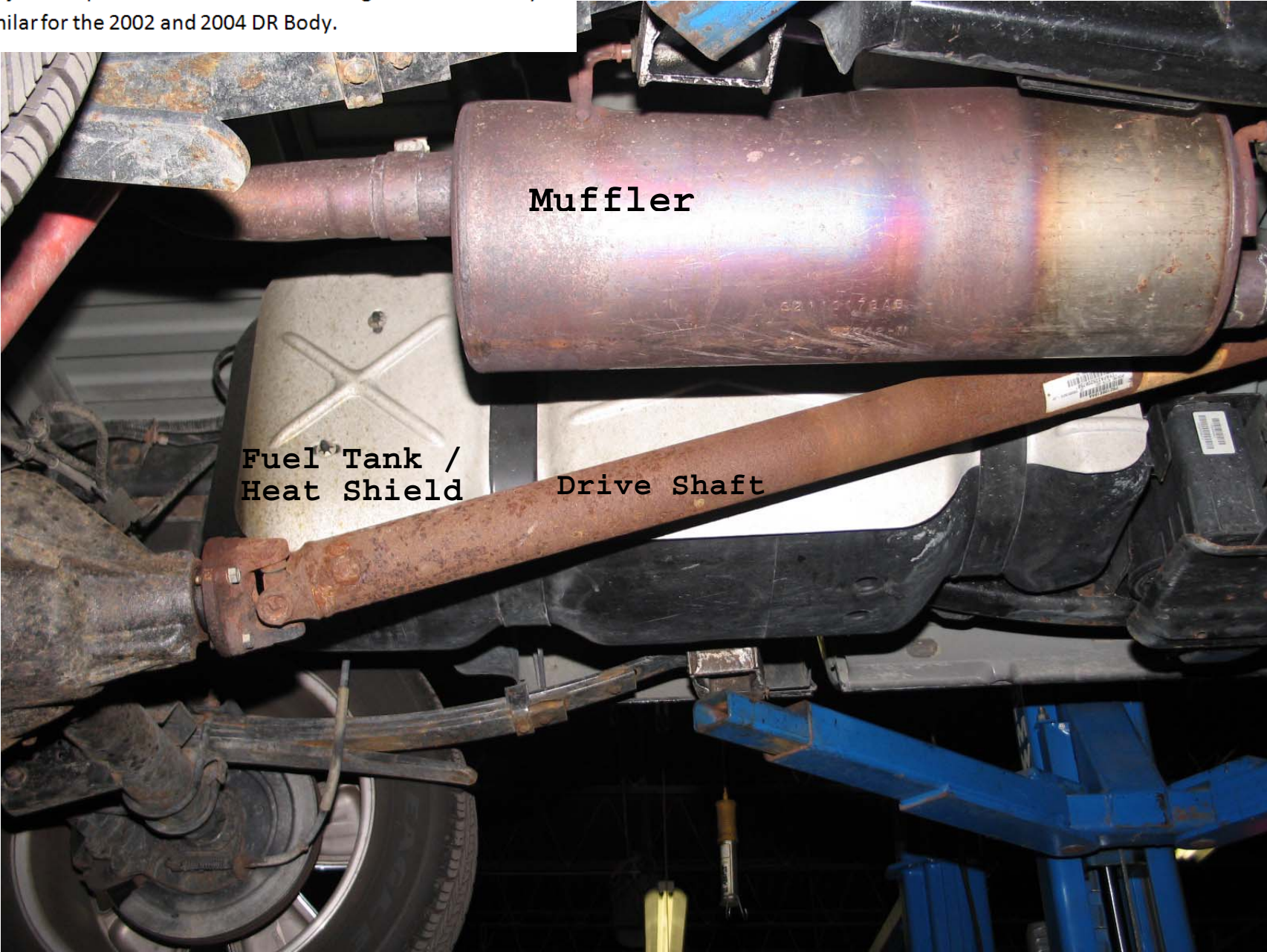
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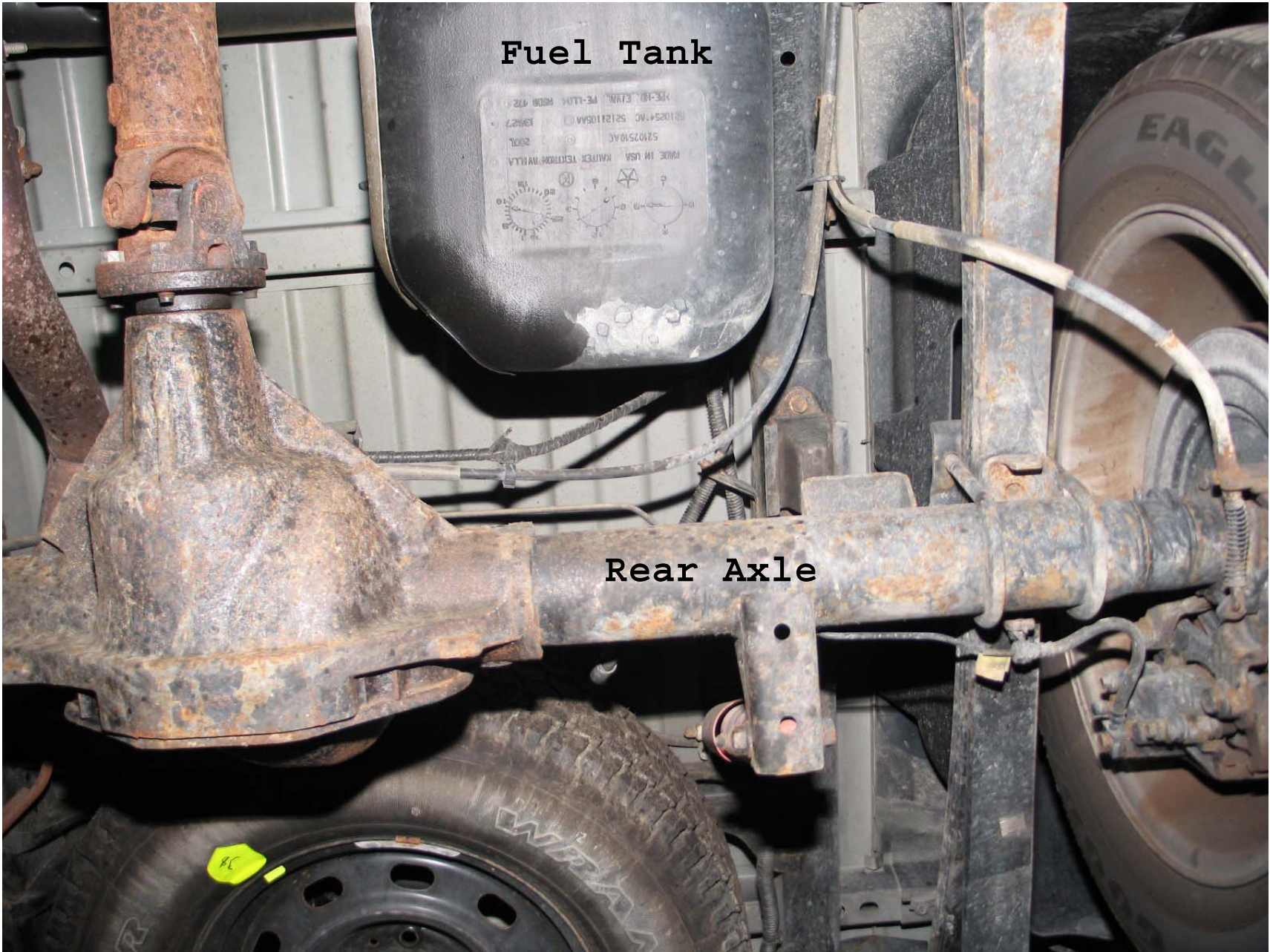
Enclosure 1B -
Underbody Graphics
2002-2004 DR Fuel
Tank Graphics

The underbody graphics in this file are of a 2003 DR body. The subject components and their surroundings are substantially similar for the 2002 and 2004 DR Body.



Fuel Tank

Rear Axle





Drive Shaft

Fuel Tank & Straps

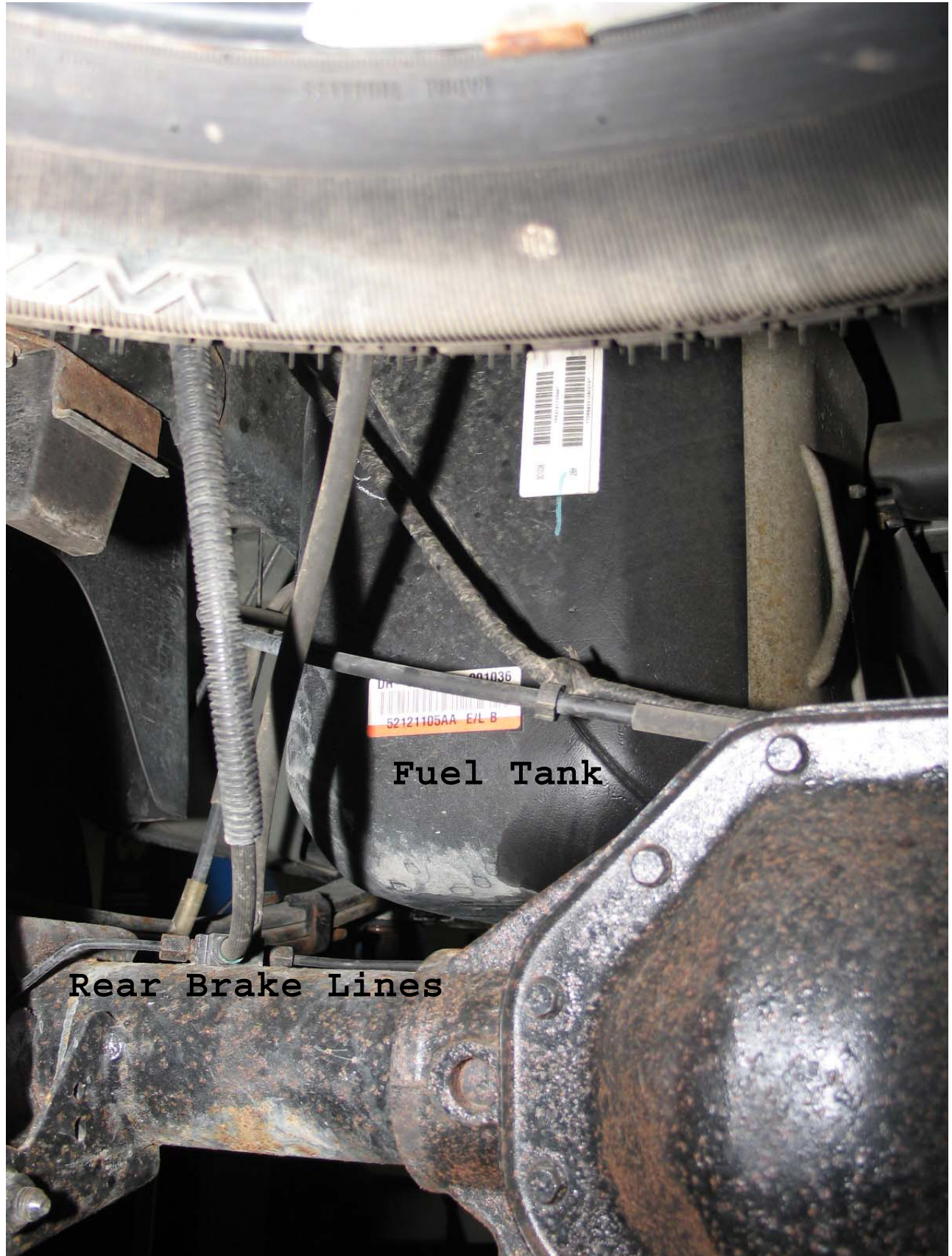


Rear Axle

Fuel Tank & Straps



Fuel Tank & Straps



Fuel Tank

Rear Brake Lines



Fuel Tank & Straps



Fuel Tank & Straps

Vapor
Canister