

Kristin Kolodge  
Sr. Manager  
Product Investigations & Campaigns

August 15, 2013

Mr. O. Kevin Vincent  
Chief Counsel  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Room W41-227  
Washington, DC 20590

2013 AUG 16 P 4: 54  
OFFICE OF CHIEF  
COUNSEL

Re: Request for Confidential Treatment of Business Information Submitted in Relation to EA12-005

Dear Mr. Vincent:

Chrysler Group LLC ("Chrysler") is voluntarily submitting copies of a document in connection with the ongoing EA12-005 investigation. An informal request for a copy of this information was made by Scott Yon during a conference call between Chrysler and NHTSA. Based on a careful review of the submission, Chrysler has determined that the information in the submission is confidential and should be accorded confidential treatment under this agency's regulations at 49 C.F.R. Part 512 and Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4). Therefore, Chrysler is submitting the enclosed confidential documents together with this request for confidential treatment to the Office of Chief Counsel.

The information required by Part 512 is set forth below.

**A. Description of the Information (49 C.F.R. § 512.8(a))**

The business information for which confidential treatment is being sought is in the three pdf documents entitled, "Trailer Hitch Data Sheet 1993 - 1998 ZJ CBI.pdf", "Trailer Hitch Data Sheet 1999 - 2004 WJ CBI.pdf" and "Trailer Hitch Data Sheet 2002 - 2007 KJ CBI.pdf". These documents contain design information on Bates page numbers EA12-005 Design Information - Chrysler - 01 through 05.

**B. Confidentiality Standard (49 C.F.R. § 512.8(b))**

This submission is subject to the voluntary submission standard set forth in 49 C.F.R. § 512.15(d).

**C. Justification for Confidential Treatment (49 C.F.R. § 512.8(c))**

Information is voluntarily submitted if the agency did not invoke its authority to compel the submission of the information, even if the agency had such authority. *See Parker v. Bureau of Land Management*, 141 F. Supp. 2d 71, 78 n.6 (D.D.C 2001) (“In addition to possessing the authority to compel submission, the agency must also exercise that authority in order for a submission to be deemed mandatory.”); U.S. Dept. of Justice, Guide to the Freedom of Information Act at 279 (2009) ([http://www.justice.gov/oip/foia\\_guide09/exemption4.pdf](http://www.justice.gov/oip/foia_guide09/exemption4.pdf)) (“Furthermore, the existence of agency authority to require submission of information does not automatically mean such a submission is ‘required’; the agency authority must actually be exercised in order for a particular submission to be deemed ‘required.’”). At no time did Scott Yon purport to invoke NHTSA’s authority to compel the submission of the information for which Chrysler is seeking confidential treatment.

Information submitted voluntarily should be accorded confidential treatment if it is the type of information that is not customarily disclosed by the submitter to the public. Chrysler does not ever, much less customarily, disclose to the public, the design information included in this submission.

**D. Class Determination (49 C.F.R. § 512.8(d))**

The information is not subject to a Class Determination.

**E. Duration for Which Confidential Treatment is Sought (49 C.F.R. § 512.8(e))**

Because the information for which confidential treatment is being sought is the kind of information that Chrysler does not anticipate ever customarily disclosing to the public, Chrysler requests that the information be accorded confidential treatment permanently.

**F. Contact Information (49 C.F.R. § 512.8(f))**

Please direct all inquiries and responses to the undersigned at:  
800 Chrysler Drive, CIMS 482-00-91  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326  
248-512-0087  
[kjs9@chrysler.com](mailto:kjs9@chrysler.com)

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If you receive a request for disclosure of the information for which confidential treatment is being sought before you have completed your review of our request, Chrysler respectfully requests notification of the request(s) and an opportunity to provide further justification for the confidential treatment of this information, if warranted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Kolodge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kristin Kolodge

cc: Scott Yon

Attachment and Enclosures

### **Certificate in Support of Request for Confidentiality**

I, Kristin Kolodge, pursuant to the provisions of 49 C.F.R. Part 512, state as follows:

- (1) I am Chrysler Group LLC's Senior Manager, Product Investigations & Campaigns and I am authorized by Chrysler Group LLC to execute documents on its behalf;
- (2) I certify that the information contained in the attached documents is confidential and proprietary data and is being submitted with the claim that it is entitled to confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4);
- (3) I hereby request that the information contained in the indicated documents be protected on a permanent basis;
- (4) This certification is based on the information provided by the responsible Chrysler Group LLC personnel who have authority in the normal course of business to release the information for which a claim of confidentiality has been made to ascertain whether such information has ever been released outside Chrysler Group LLC;
- (5) Based upon that information, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, the information for which Chrysler Group LLC has claimed confidential treatment has never been released or become available outside Chrysler Group LLC, except to certain contractors of Chrysler Group LLC with the understanding that such information must be maintained in strict confidence;
- (6) I make no representations beyond those contained in this certificate and, in particular, I make no representations as to whether this information may become available outside Chrysler Group LLC because of unauthorized or inadvertent disclosure (except as stated in paragraph 5); and
- (7) I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013



Kristin Kolodge