



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: DP 18-004
Prompted by: Defect Petition
Date Opened: 11/16/2018
Investigator: Daniel Pinero **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Stephen Ridella
Subject: Frame Weld Deficiencies

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Chrysler (FCA US LLC)
Products: 2018 Jeep Wrangler
Population: 220,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Various frame weld quality concerns, such as excessive slag, lack of and/or over penetration, overweld or weld drip, weld splash and porous welds, and at various frame locations.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	2	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open this Defect Petition for a grant or deny decision.

Summary:

A defect petition was received by the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) requesting a formal investigation of model year (MY) 2018 Jeep Wrangler vehicles for the existence of weld related safety defects located on the vehicle frame.

The petitioner alleges widespread weld defects across "nearly all" 2018 Jeep Wrangler (specifically JL family code) vehicle frames. The petition describes a broad list of frame weld deficiencies, including porous welds, excessive slag, lack of weld penetration, over penetration of welds, overweld or weld drip, and weld splash. The weld defects are allegedly located at a variety of locations on the frame assembly including the track bar bracket welds that have broken and resulted in steering concerns (see NHTSA safety recall 18V-675). The petitioner alleges that the existence of the described weld defects could result in "catastrophic failure."

This defect petition has been opened to evaluate the issue and determine whether to grant or deny the petitioner's request.

The complaints (VOQ reports) cited above can be reviewed at NHTSA.gov under the following reference (ODI) numbers: 11140057, 11076098.