

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

00V-033 ①

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

February 3, 2000

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator, Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

In accordance with the provisions of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, DaimlerChrysler Corporation herewith furnishes the Defect Information Report, which contains details of a recall regarding a potential safety related deficiency in some 2000 model year vehicles. Some of the affected vehicles were built with seat belt retractors that may not function properly.

DaimlerChrysler will formalize the recall requirements and instructions to dealers in the near future. Copies will be provided to the NHTSA when available, and Vehicle Identification Number range and assembly plant information for the involved vehicles will also be furnished at that time.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Cischke

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Recall # 863

cc: K.C. DeMeter, NHTSA
Division of Occupational Safety & Health
California Department of Industrial Relations

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL # B63

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Submission date: February 3, 2000**Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:**

<u>Make</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates of Manufacture</u>	<u>Volume</u>
Dodge	Intrepid	2000	Mid-October, 1999	7,580
Chrysler	Concorde		Through	
Chrysler	300M		Late-October, 1999	
Chrysler	LHS			

Estimated percentage containing defect: 5.5%**Description of defect:**

Molding flash on the primary lever may prevent operation of the g-lock and tilt lock functions on some of the driver's side retractors. If this occurs in a frontal crash situation, driver protection from the seat belt may be reduced, increasing the risk of injury.

The name, address and telephone number of the supplier who manufactured the subject components:

Breed Technologies
7000 Nineteen Mile Rd.
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
810-728-4259

The following chronology of principal events led to the determination of a defect:

- During an evaluation ride and drive in October, 1999, at Bramalea Assembly Plant, it was noted that the left front retractor did not lock up during a deceleration event.
- Analysis of the suspect retractor found plastic molding "flash" on the primary lever inside the retractor mechanism. The "flash" on the lever prevented it from moving to lock the retractor.
- It was determined that cavity 4 (of the 8 cavity die) was damaged during operation and that two lots of suspect levers had been manufactured. The first lot consisted of 13,290 levers that were built into retractors and shipped. The second lot contained 20,000 levers, all of which were quarantined.
- All retractors available from the assemblies that may have been built with the suspect levers were contained and returned to the supplier.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL # 863

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- Analysis of 31,000 quarantined parts, completed in January, 2000, determined that 79% of the retractors built with cavity 4 locking levers contained flash, and that 376 cavity 4 levers remain unaccounted for.
- The g-lock function and tilt lock functions of the retractor are affected. The web sensitivity locking feature function is unaffected, so the retractor will still lock up as the belt is payed out with sufficient webbing acceleration.
- The suspect primary lever was determined to be unique to this application.
- Analysis of available data found no complaints from any sources related to this issue.
- This issue was presented to the VRC (Vehicle Regulations Committee) in January, 2000, to evaluate risk to motor vehicle safety and scope of the issue. A decision was made to recall the subject vehicles.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

A safety recall will be conducted on the affected vehicles to replace the left front retractor assemblies. In conjunction with this action, a notice was issued to dealers advising them to stop sale of the affected vehicles. A supply of the necessary replacement parts is being procured and the information required for a stop sale and recall implementation is being prepared. DaimlerChrysler expects to begin national dealer and owner notification in March, 2000.



"Dealership Mail" <QUIKCOMM@infoctr.chrysler.com> on 02/04/2000 10:52:57 AM

Please respond to <QUIKCOMM@infoctr.chrysler.com>

To: <John B Hunter/CTC/Chrysler@amp.notes.chrysler.com>
cc:

Subject: Safety Recall #863 - STOP SALE ORDER

To: DLRALL\$1 ALL DEALERS
DLRALL\$2 ALL DEALERS
DLRALL\$3 ALL DEALERS
DLRALL\$4 ALL DEALERS

From: VEHSAFETY3 HUNTER, J.B.

Subject: Safety Recall #863 -- STOP SALE ORDER

ATTENTION: Service and Sales Managers

Safety Recall #63- Left Front Seat Belt Retractor - STOP SALE ORDER

Involved Vehicles: 2000 Model Year Dodge Intrepid and Chrysler Concorde, LHS and 300M (LH) Vehicles Built From October 14, 1999 Through October 25, 1999 (MDH 101415 through 102522)

IMPORTANT: Many of the vehicles within the above build period have already been inspected or repaired and, therefore, have been excluded from this recall. Dealers must refer to the DIAL VIP Function to determine if a vehicle is involved in this recall.

The left front (driver's) seat belt retractor assembly on about 7,500 of the above vehicles may not operate properly due to plastic molding flash on the primary lever inside of the retractor mechanism. Molding flash can prevent the seat belt retractor from locking. This could cause increased injury to a belted driver under certain accident conditions. To correct this condition, the left front seat belt retractor must be replaced.

IMPORTANT: ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS, SOME OF THE INVOLVED VEHICLES ARE STILL IN DEALER NEW VEHICLE INVENTORY. FEDERAL LAW REQUIRES YOU TO STOP SALE AND COMPLETE THIS RECALL SERVICE ON THESE VEHICLES BEFORE RETAIL DELIVERY.

VIN LISTS ON DIAL SYSTEM FUNCTION 53:

Each dealer to whom INVOLVED VEHICLES were invoiced has had a VIN list electronically transmitted to DIAL System Function 53. Owners will also be listed if known. To use this system, type "53" at the "ENTER FUNCTION" prompt, then type "ORD863" to determine if your dealer has any involved vehicles.

SERVICE PROCEDURE:

Replace the left front seat belt retractor assembly following the procedure on pages 23-64 and 23-65 of the 2000 LHS, 300M, Concorde and Intrepid Service Manual.

PARTS:

Initially, due to limited availability of replacement retractors, dealers should order seat belt retractor assemblies only to repair inventory vehicles that have a prospective retail customer. Additional seat belt retractor assemblies will be available in the next few weeks. Refer to the table below for the proper seat belt retractor assembly part number:

Interior Color	Sales Code	Part Number
Agate or Medium Quartz	*AZ or *D5	0SG63LAZAF, 0SG63LAZAG or 0SG63LAZAI
Camel/Tan	*K9	0SG631K9AF, 0SG631K9AG or 0SG631K9AI
Lt Pearl Beige	*FK	0SG631FKAF, 0SG631FKAG or 0SG631FKAI

REIMBURSEMENT:

Use the following labor operation number and time allowance:

	Labor Operation Number	Time Allowance
Replace left front seat belt retractor assembly	23B631B2	0.4 hours

Add the cost of the seat belt retractor assembly plus applicable dealer allowance to your claim.

If you have any questions regarding this action, please contact your zone office.

Ray Fisher
Vice President -- Sales and Service
Customer Services Field Operations