

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

November 26, 2002

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

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director
Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Reference: NHTSA Identification Number 02V-159

Enclosed are representative copies of communications relating to the 2002 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. DaimlerChrysler expects to begin owner notification during the week of December 9, 2002. The exact number of manufactured vehicles involved in this recall is 40,158.

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

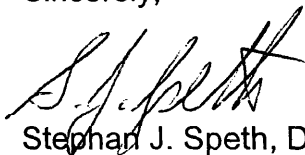
<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
2G100098	2G142225
2J100712	2J182697
2S500931	2S585813

(VIN last eight characters) - 2 = 2002 Model Year; G = Saltillo Assembly Plant, Saltillo Mexico; J = St. Louis Assembly Plant, Fenton Missouri; S = Dodge City Warren Truck Assembly Plant, Warren Michigan; and the last six digits = sequential number.

We caution that the above range represents only the lowest and highest VIN sequential numbers included in the recall. This range cannot be used to determine conclusively that a vehicle is involved in the recall because most vehicles with a VIN within the range are not affected by the recall.

This completes DaimlerChrysler's package of information for this recall as required by the Defects Report Regulation.

Sincerely,



Stephan J. Speth, Director
Vehicle Compliance and Safety Affairs

Enclosure: Recall #B20

cc: K. C. DeMeter

DaimlerChrysler Corporation
800 Chrysler Drive CIMS 482-00-91
Auburn Hills MI USA 48326-2757
Phone 248.512.4188
Fax 248.576.7321
e-mail: ss6@daimlerchrysler.com

Dealer Service Instructions for:

Safety Recall No. B20

Axle Flange Reinforcements

Models

2002 (DR) Dodge Ram Pick-Up Truck (4WD models only)

NOTE: This recall applies only to the above four wheel drive vehicles built at the:

- *Warren Truck Assembly Plant (“S” in the 11th VIN Position) from July 22, 2001 through November 29, 2001 (MDH 072200 through 112910).*
- *St. Louis North Assembly Plant (“J” in the 11th VIN Position) from July 22, 2001 through November 29, 2001 (MDH 072200 through 112920).*
- *Saltillo Assembly Plant (“G” in the 11th VIN Position) from July 22, 2001 through November 30, 2001 (MDH 072200 through 113023).*

IMPORTANT: *Many of the vehicles within the above build period have already been inspected or repaired and, therefore, have been excluded from this recall.*

IMPORTANT: Some of the involved vehicles may be in dealer new vehicle inventory. **Federal law requires you to stop sale and complete this recall service on these vehicles before retail delivery.** Dealers should also consider this requirement to apply to used vehicle inventory and should perform this recall on vehicles in for service. Involved vehicles can be determined by using the DIAL VIP System.

Subject

The rear axle flange welds on about 40,000 of the above trucks may fatigue and allow the brake caliper to rotate. This may cause a rear brake tube to leak, resulting in a partial brake system loss and increased stopping distance. The increased stopping distance can cause an accident without warning.

Repair

An axle flange reinforcement bracket must be installed on the right and left side of the rear axle.

Parts Information

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
CBE0B200	Axle Flange Reinforcement Bracket Package

Each package contains the following components:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	Axle Flange Reinforcement Bracket Body
2	Axle Flange Reinforcement Bracket Cap
8	Bolts

Each dealer to whom vehicles in the recall were invoiced will receive enough Axle Flange Reinforcement Bracket Packages to service about 10% of those vehicles.

Service Procedure

1. Raise the vehicle on an appropriate hoist.
2. Using Mopar Brake Clean (P/N 04897150AB) or equivalent and a shop towel, remove all dirt, mud and/or rustproofing from the axle tube between the axle flange and the axle U-bolts (Figure 1).

CAUTION: The axle tube area where the reinforcement bracket mounts must be clean before installation. Failure to clean the axle tube may cause reinforcement bracket misalignment.

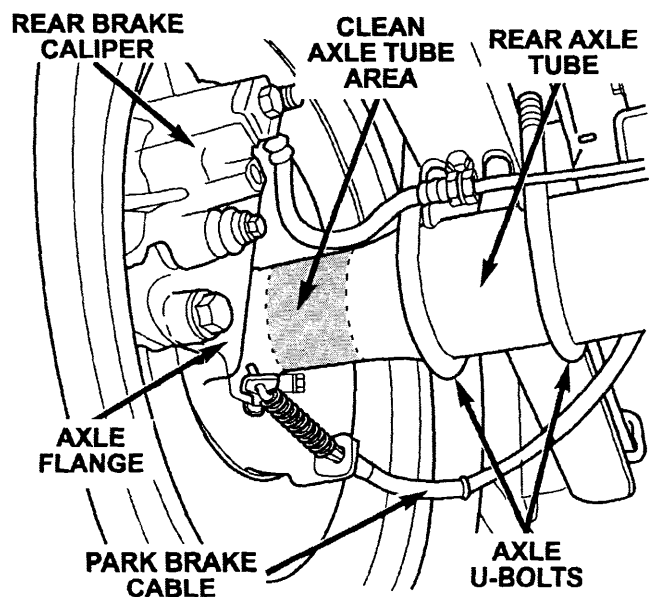


Figure 1 - Left Side Shown

Service Procedure (Continued)

3. Remove and discard the two original brake caliper adapter-to-caliper mounting bracket bolts on the left caliper (Figure 2).
4. Place the axle flange reinforcement bracket body into position and install the two new brake caliper adapter-to-caliper mounting bracket bolts provided in the package (Figure 3). Only tighten the bolts to 75 in. lbs. (9 N·m) at this time.

NOTE: All of the bolts provided in the repair package are interchangeable.

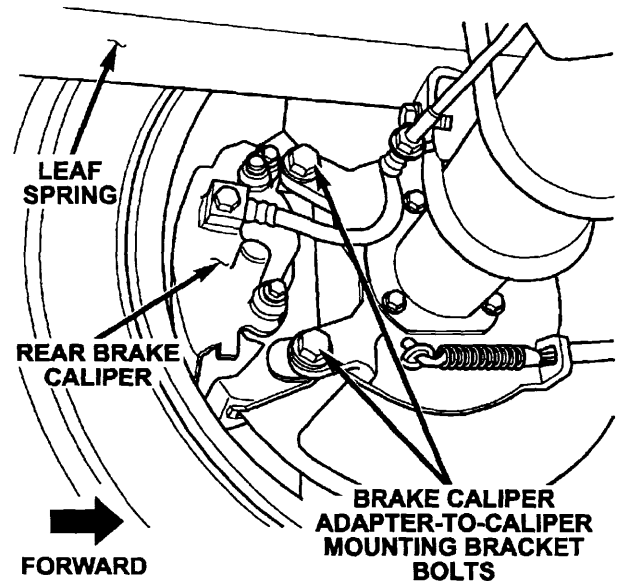


Figure 2 - Left Side Shown

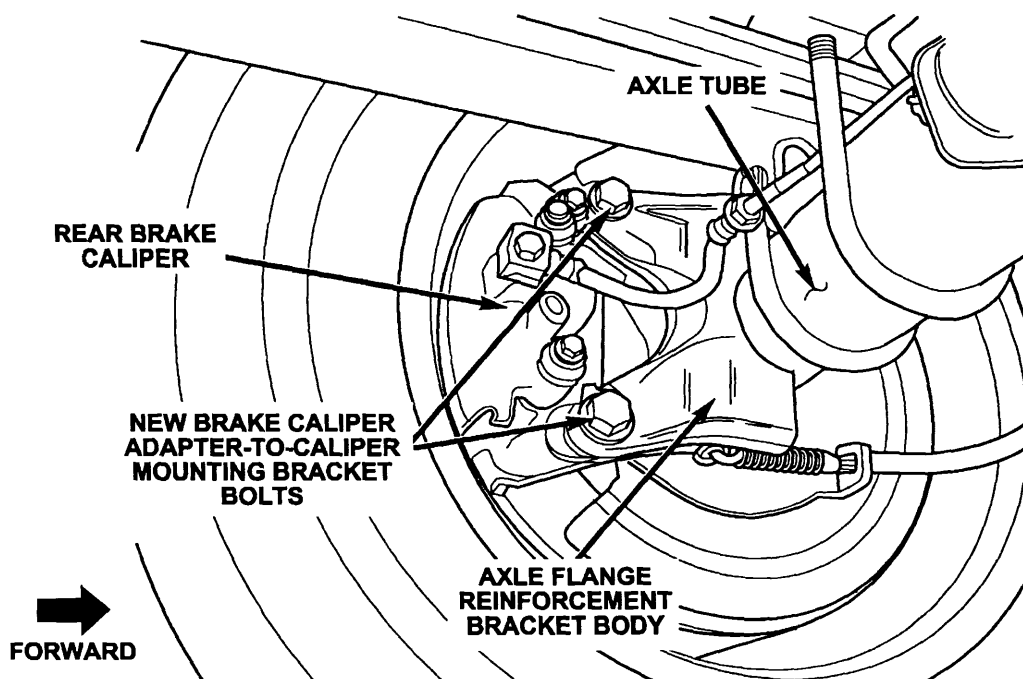
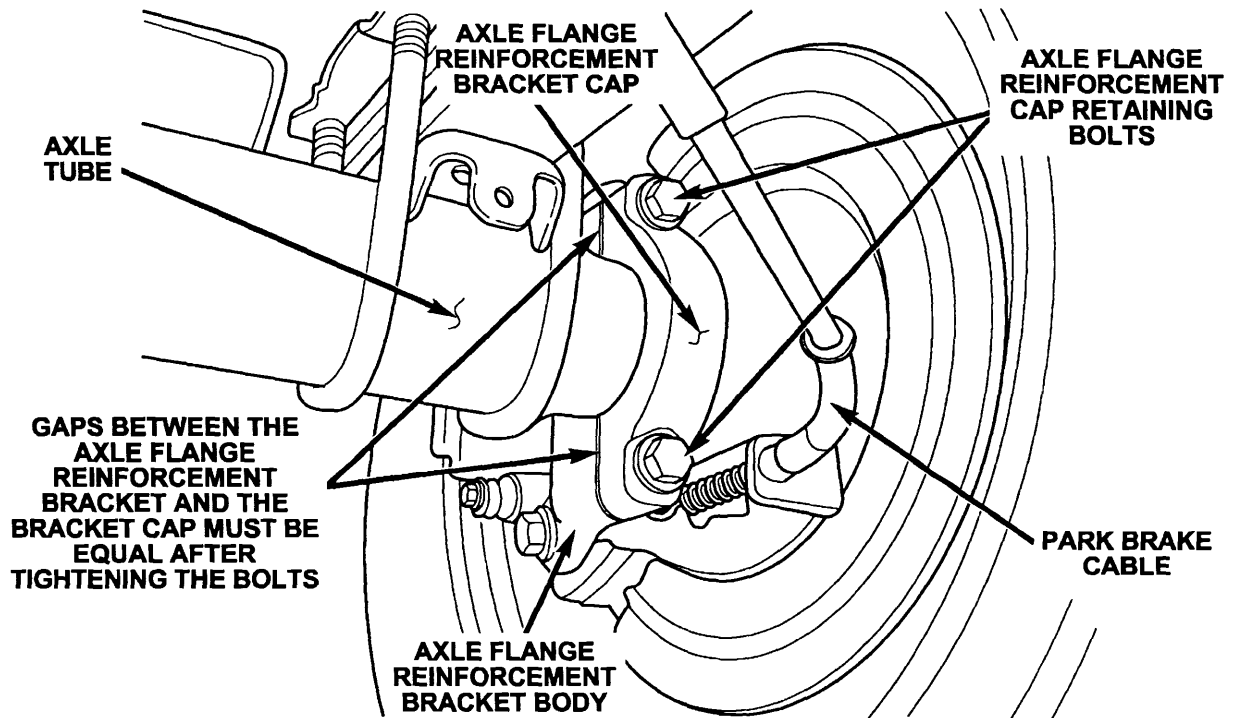


Figure 3 - Left Side Shown

Service Procedure (Continued)**Figure 4 - Left Side Shown**

5. Place the axle flange reinforcement bracket cap into position (Figure 4). Install the two retaining bolts provided and tighten the bolts evenly to 60 ft. lbs. (81 N·m) (Figure 4). Then tighten the bolts to 120 ft. lbs. (162 N·m). Tighten the bolts a second time to 120 ft. lbs. (162 N·m).

CAUTION: The axle flange reinforcement cap retaining bolts must be tightened evenly to maintain equal clamping (gaps) between the axle flange reinforcement body and reinforcement cap.

6. Tighten the brake caliper adapter-to-caliper mounting bracket bolts to 100 ft. lbs. (135 N·m) (Figure 3).
7. Repeat steps 2 through 6 on the right rear brake caliper.
8. Lower the vehicle from the hoist.

Completion Reporting and Reimbursement

Claims for vehicles that have been serviced must be submitted on the DIAL System. Claims submitted will be used by DaimlerChrysler to record recall service completions and provide dealer payments.

Use the following labor operation number and time allowance:

	Labor Operation Number	Time Allowance
Install axle flange reinforcement brackets	03-B2-01-82	0.5 hours

Add the cost of the recall parts package plus applicable dealer allowance to your claim.

NOTE: See the Warranty Administration Manual, Recall Claim Processing Section, for complete recall claim processing instructions.

Parts Return

Not applicable.

Dealer Notification and Vehicle List

All dealers will receive a copy of this dealer recall notification letter by first class mail. Two additional copies will be sent through the DCMMS, and the MDS2 will be updated to include this recall in the near future. **Each dealer to whom involved vehicles were invoiced will receive a list of their involved vehicles.** The vehicle list is arranged in Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) sequence. Owners known to DaimlerChrysler are also listed. The lists are for dealer reference in arranging for service of involved vehicles.

DIAL System Functions 53 and VIP

All involved vehicles have been entered to DIAL System Functions 53 and VIP for dealer inquiry as needed.

Function 53 provides involved dealers with an updated VIN list of their incomplete vehicles. The customer name, address and phone number are listed if known. Completed vehicles are removed from Function 53 within several days of repair claim submission. To use this system, type "53" at the "ENTER FUNCTION" prompt, then type "ORDB20".

Owner Notification and Service Scheduling

All involved vehicle owners known to DaimlerChrysler are being notified of the service requirement by first class mail. They are requested to schedule appointments for this service with their dealers. A copy of the owner letter is attached.

Enclosed with each owner letter is an Owner Notification Form. The involved vehicle and recall are identified on the form for owner or dealer reference as needed.

Vehicle Not Available

If a vehicle is not available for service, let us know by filling out the pre-addressed Owner Notification Form or describe the reason on a postcard and mail to:

DaimlerChrysler Corporation
CIMS 482-00-85
800 Chrysler Drive East
Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326-2757

Additional Information

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing this action, please contact your Zone Service Office.

Customer Services Field Operations
DaimlerChrysler Corporation

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

SAFETY RECALL TO REINFORCE YOUR TRUCK'S AXLE FLANGES

Dear Dodge Ram Truck Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation has determined that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in some **2002 model year Dodge Ram four wheel drive pickup trucks.**

The problem is...

The rear axle flange welds on your truck (identified on the enclosed form) may fatigue and allow the brake caliper to rotate. This may cause a rear brake tube to leak, resulting in a partial brake system loss and increased stopping distance. The increased stopping distance can cause an accident without warning.

What DaimlerChrysler and your dealer will do...

DaimlerChrysler will repair your truck free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will install axle flange reinforcement brackets. The work will take about ½ hour to complete. However, additional time may be necessary depending on how dealer appointments are scheduled and processed.

What you must do to ensure your safety...

- **Simply contact your dealer** right away to schedule a service appointment. Ask the dealer to hold the parts for your vehicle or to order them before your appointment.
- **Bring the enclosed form with you to your dealer.** It identifies the required service to the dealer.

If you need help...

If you have questions or concerns which the dealer is unable to resolve, please contact the DaimlerChrysler Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-853-1403. A representative will assist you.

If you have already experienced the problem described above and have paid to have it repaired, you may send your original receipts and/or other adequate proof of payment to the following address for reimbursement: DaimlerChrysler Customer Assistance Center, P.O. Box 1040, St. Charles, MO 63302-1040, Attention: Reimbursement.

If your dealer fails or is unable to remedy this defect without charge and within a reasonable time, you may submit a written complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

We're sorry for any inconvenience, but we are sincerely concerned about your safety. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

***Buckle up
for Safety***

Customer Services Field Operations
DaimlerChrysler Corporation
B20