

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

July 2, 2004

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

04V-333
(17 pages)

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
OFFICE OF

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04V-333
2004-215

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Attached is DaimlerChrysler Corporation's Defect Information Report, complying with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, which contains details of a potential safety related defect in a small number of 2005 model year Dodge Magnum and Chrysler 300 vehicles. Welds that secure a rear floor pan reinforcement bracket may be missing. DaimlerChrysler Corporation will conduct a voluntary safety recall to inspect for the presence of the welds and repair with structural rivets if necessary.

Sincerely,



Stephan J. Speth

Enclosures: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall D21
Dealer and Owner Notification Letters – Recall D21

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

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL D21

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Submission date: July 2, 2004

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume
Dodge	Magnum	2005	5/14/2004 – 5/16/2004	21
Chrysler	300	2005		

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
5H113221	5H171232

(VIN last eight characters) - 5 = 2005 model year; H = Brampton Assembly Plant, Brampton, Ontario; 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.

Estimated percentage containing defect: 4%**Description of defect:**

Welds that secure a rear floor pan reinforcement bracket to the floor pan may be missing. This may result in reduced structural support for the rear seat belts and rear seat LATCH system lower anchorages during a severe frontal impact.

The following chronology of principal events occurred between mid May 2004 and June 2004 and led to the determination of a defect:

- On May 15, 2004, a weld auditor at DaimlerChrysler Corporation's Brampton Assembly Plant detected a condition where a rear floor pan reinforcement bracket may be missing spot welds.
- Investigation by Brampton Assembly Plant established that one spot welding robot was operating improperly because of a problem with a transformer that first occurred on the

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL D21

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second shift May 14, 2004. The condition was not detected because the associated fault parameter was improperly set.

- Brampton Assembly Plant stopped shipment of all suspect vehicles.
- The reinforcement bracket provides structural reinforcement for the rear seat lower anchorages and rear seat belt assemblies.
- Testing by Engineering in late May established that the use of structural rivets in place of the welds would meet all structural requirements.
- Brampton Assembly Plant inspected all contained suspect vehicles and repaired those with missing welds using structural rivets.
- Inspection of the contained vehicles was initiated in early June. By late June, 69 of the vehicles had been inspected and 3 were determined to be missing welds. These 3 vehicles were repaired using structural rivets. In late June, it was further discovered that a small number of the contained vehicles had been inadvertently delivered to dealerships.
- There are no injuries, complaints or field reports associated with this condition.
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on June 29, 2004 who decided to conduct a safety recall to inspect and repair as necessary the affected vehicles.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

DaimlerChrysler Corporation will inspect for the presence of the floor pan reinforcement bracket welds and repair with structural rivets if necessary. DaimlerChrysler Corporation will initiate national notification to dealers on July 2, 2004 and notification to owners on July 6, 2004.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation has a longstanding policy and practice of reimbursing owners who have incurred the cost of repairing a problem that subsequently becomes the subject of a field action. To ensure consistency, DaimlerChrysler Corporation, as part of the owner letter, will request that customers send original receipt and/or other adequate proof of payment to the company for confirmation of the expense.

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

July 2004

Dealer Service Instructions for:

Safety Recall B21 **Rear Floorpan Reinforcement Spot Welds**

Models

2005 (LX) Chrysler 300 and Dodge Magnum

NOTE: This recall applies only to the certain vehicles built from May 14, 2004 through May 16, 2004 (MDH 051420 through 051609).

IMPORTANT: Most 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 VIP inquiry process.

Subject

A spot welding operation for the rear floorpan reinforcement on 21 of the above vehicles may not have been performed. This could cause the rear seat belt anchors and the child seat anchors to separate in certain crash conditions, which can increase the risk of injury to rear seat passengers.

Repair

All involved vehicles must be inspected for the presence of rear floorpan reinforcement spot welds. Vehicles that have missing welds must have structural rivets installed.

Alternate Transportation

Dealers should attempt to minimize customer inconvenience by placing the owner in a loaner vehicle if inspection determines that riveting is required and the vehicle must be held overnight.

Parts Information

Due to the small number of involved vehicles expected to require rivet installation, no parts will be distributed initially. **Rivets and mastic patches should be ordered only after inspection determines that repair is required. *Very few vehicles are expected to require rivet installation.***

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
06034573	18	Structural Rivet
02654684	18	Mastic Patch

Special Tool

A special air/hydraulic power set riveter tool is required for the installation of the structural rivets. ALL Chrysler and Dodge dealers previously received ONE (1) W-AK175ACH Power Set Riveter, free of charge, through Pentastar Service Equipment (PSE) in December 1998.

Additional power riveters may be ordered through Pentastar Service Equipment (PSE) at dealer cost by calling 1-800-223-5623 or faxing 1-800-734-4334. Additional power riveters are NOT reimbursable by DaimlerChrysler.

Service Procedure**A. Inspect Rear Floorpan Reinforcement Spot Welds:**

1. Open the trunk.
2. Lift the rear of the trunk floor cover and then pull the floor cover rearward.
3. Open the rear driver side door.
4. Fold the rear seat back forward to expose the cargo/trunk area.
5. Remove the seat back carpet push pin retainer on each side of the vehicle and then pull the carpet back.
6. Pull the floor silencer pad forward to expose the rear floorpan reinforcement (Figure 1).
7. Inspect the floorpan reinforcement for the presence of the two spot welds shown in Figure 2.

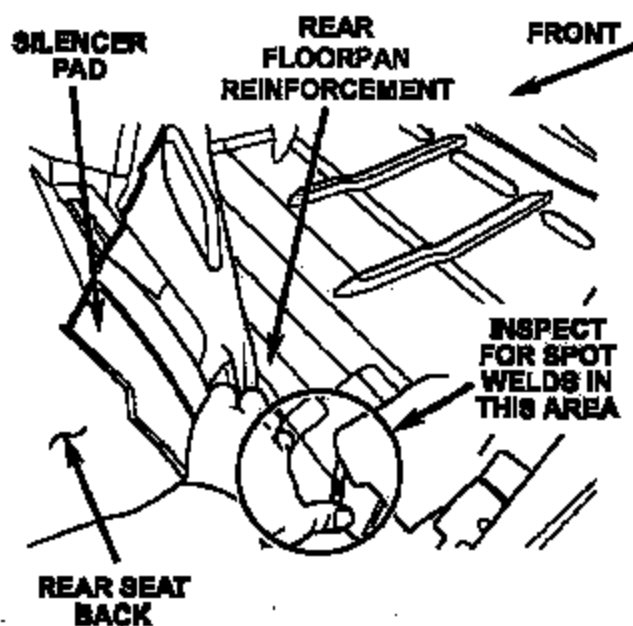


Figure 1

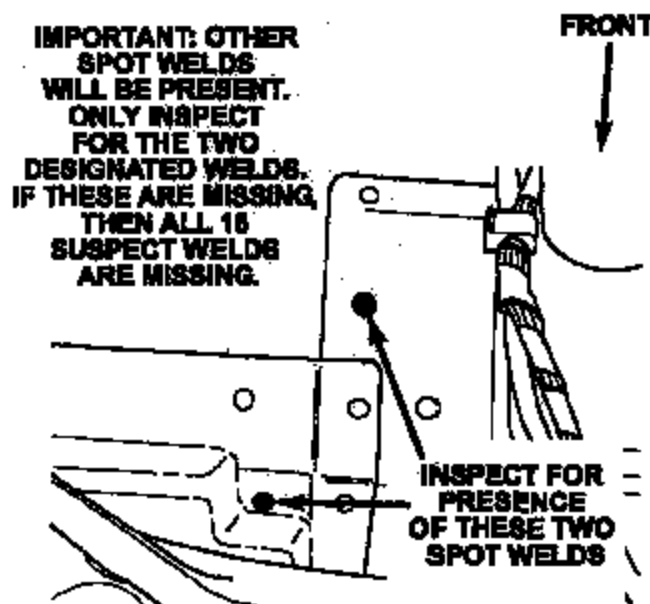


Figure 2 – Driver's Side Shown

Service Procedure (Continued)

8.
 - If spot welds are present, no further action is necessary. Continue with Step 9.
 - If spot welds are missing, continue with Section B – Install Structural Rivets.
9. Return the floor silencer pad to its original position.
10. Return the seat back carpet to its original position and install the push pins.
11. Return the seat back to its upright position.
12. Close the door.
13. Return the trunk floor cover to its original position.
14. Close the trunk lid.
15. Return the vehicle to the customer.

Service Procedure (Continued)**B. Install Structural Rivets:**

NOTE: Only vehicles with missing spot welds, as determined by the inspection in Section A, require repair. Very few vehicles are expected to require rivet installation.

1. Return the seat back to its upright position.
2. Release the two (2) rear seat cushion clips and remove the rear seat cushion from the vehicle.
3. Remove six (6) rear seat back nuts and then remove the seat back from vehicle.
4. Roll the floor silencer pad forward.
5. Disconnect the guides for the wiring harness and battery cable from the floor pan and set the cable and wiring aside.
6. Make full size copies of the five (5) templates on pages 7 – 11. Cut out the templates and place them on the vehicle as shown in Figure 3.

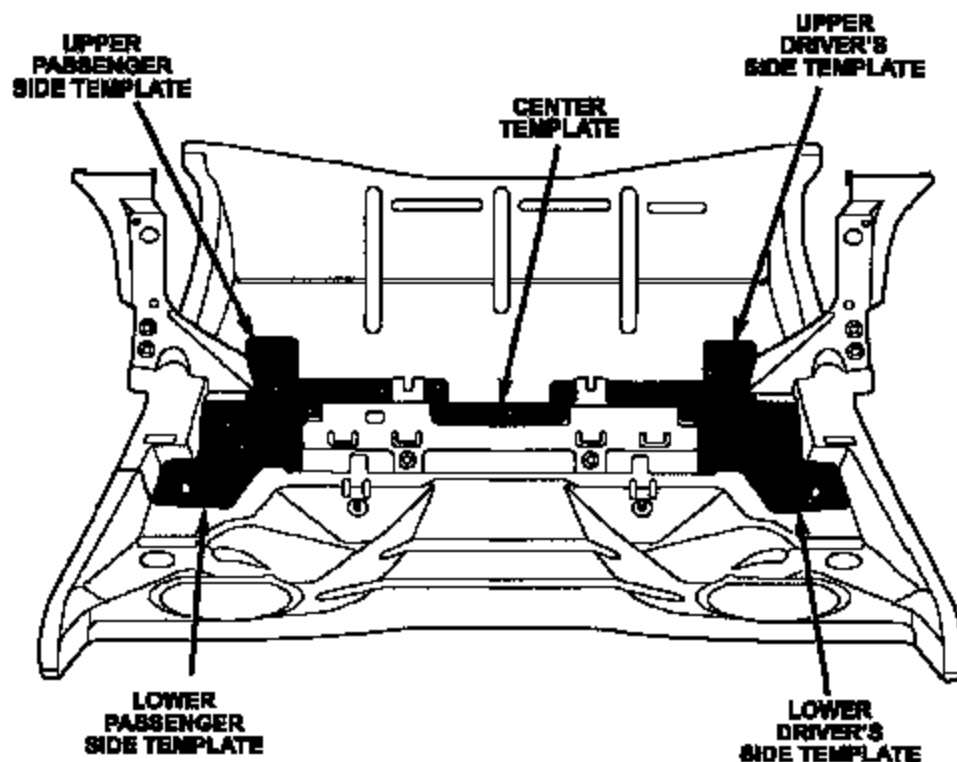
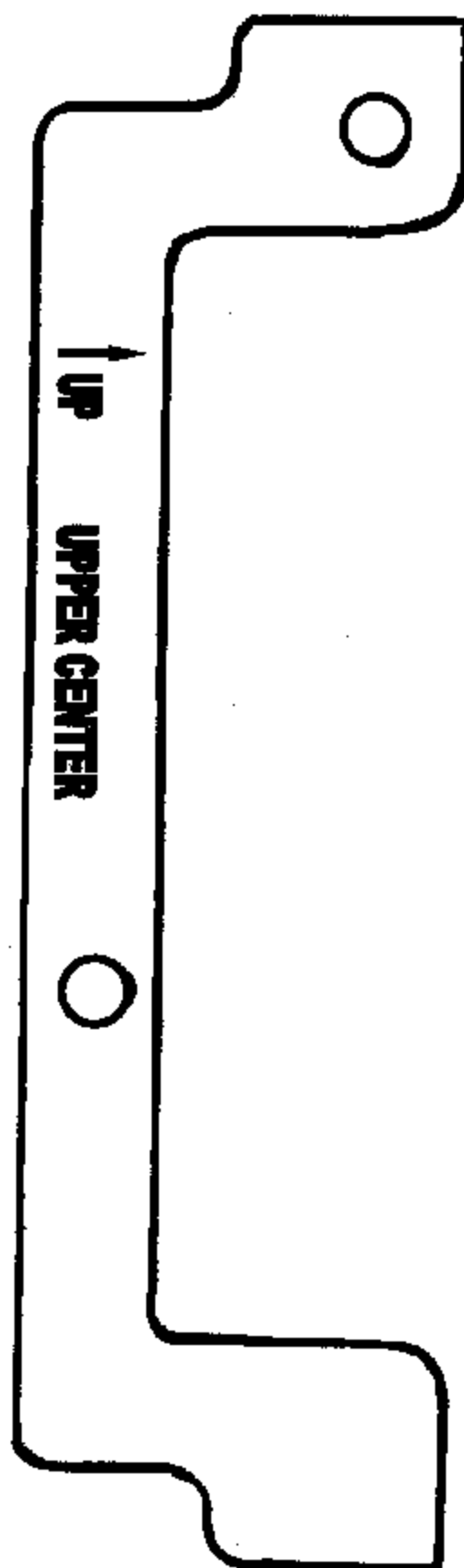
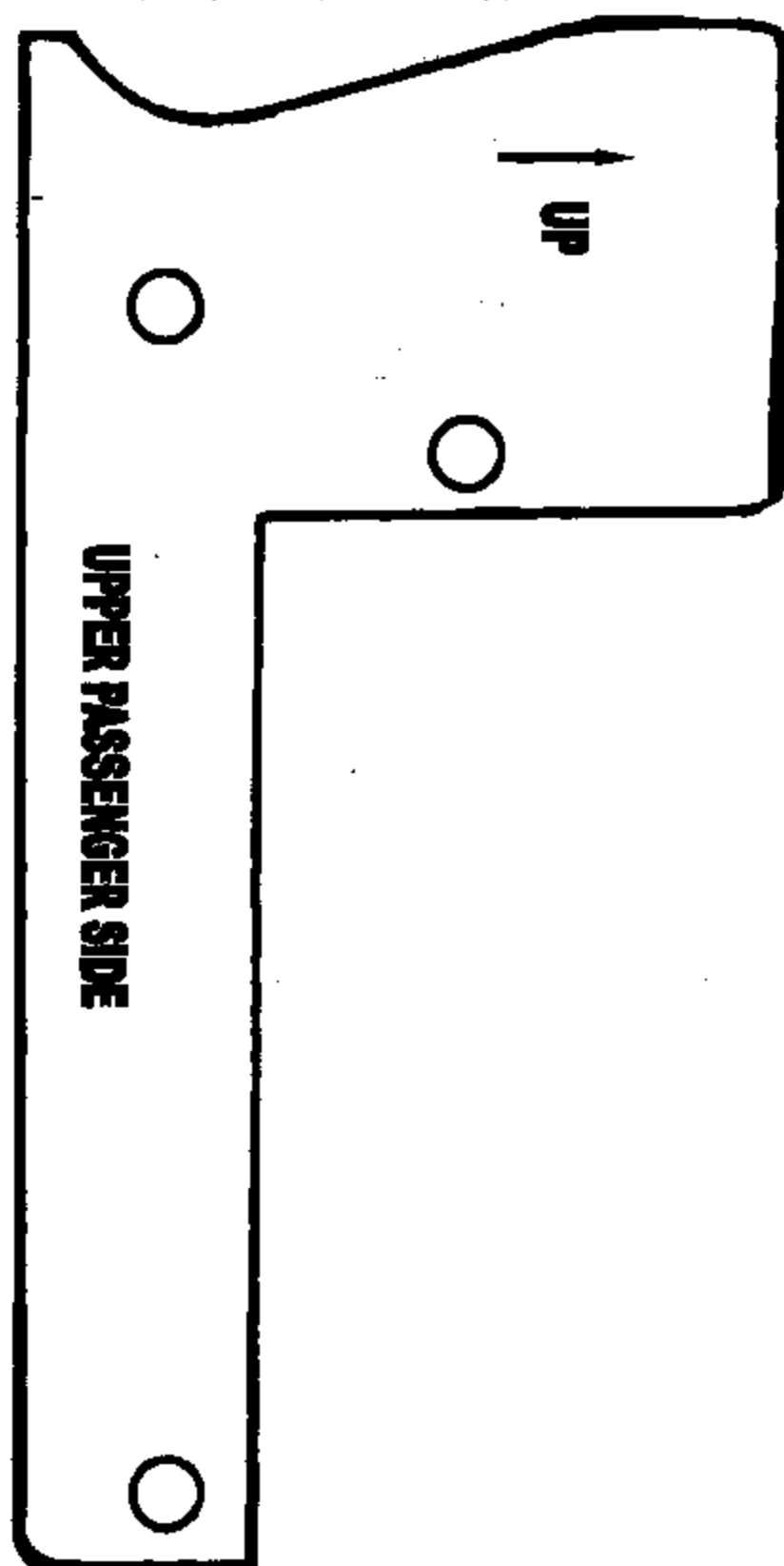


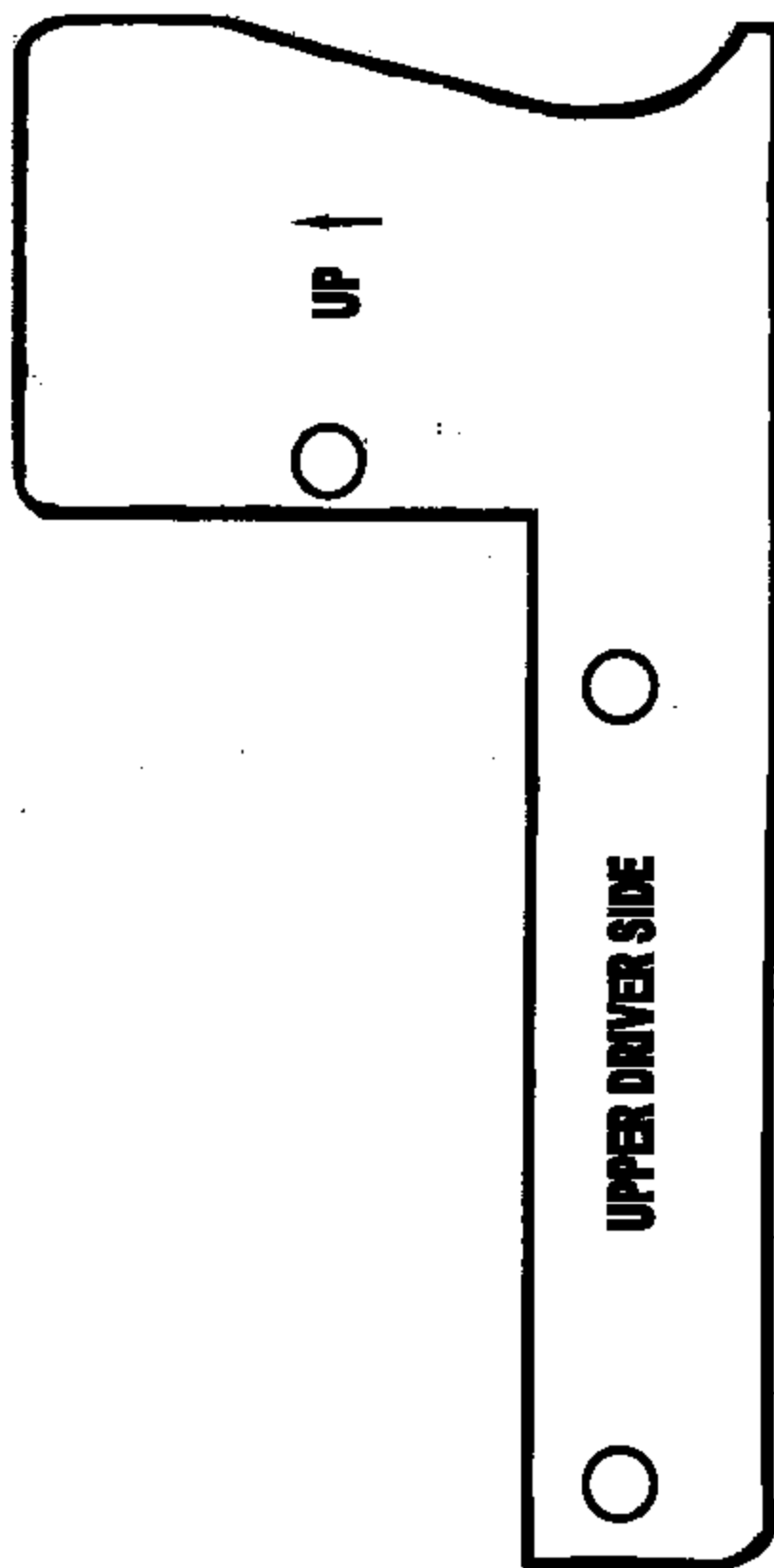
Figure 3

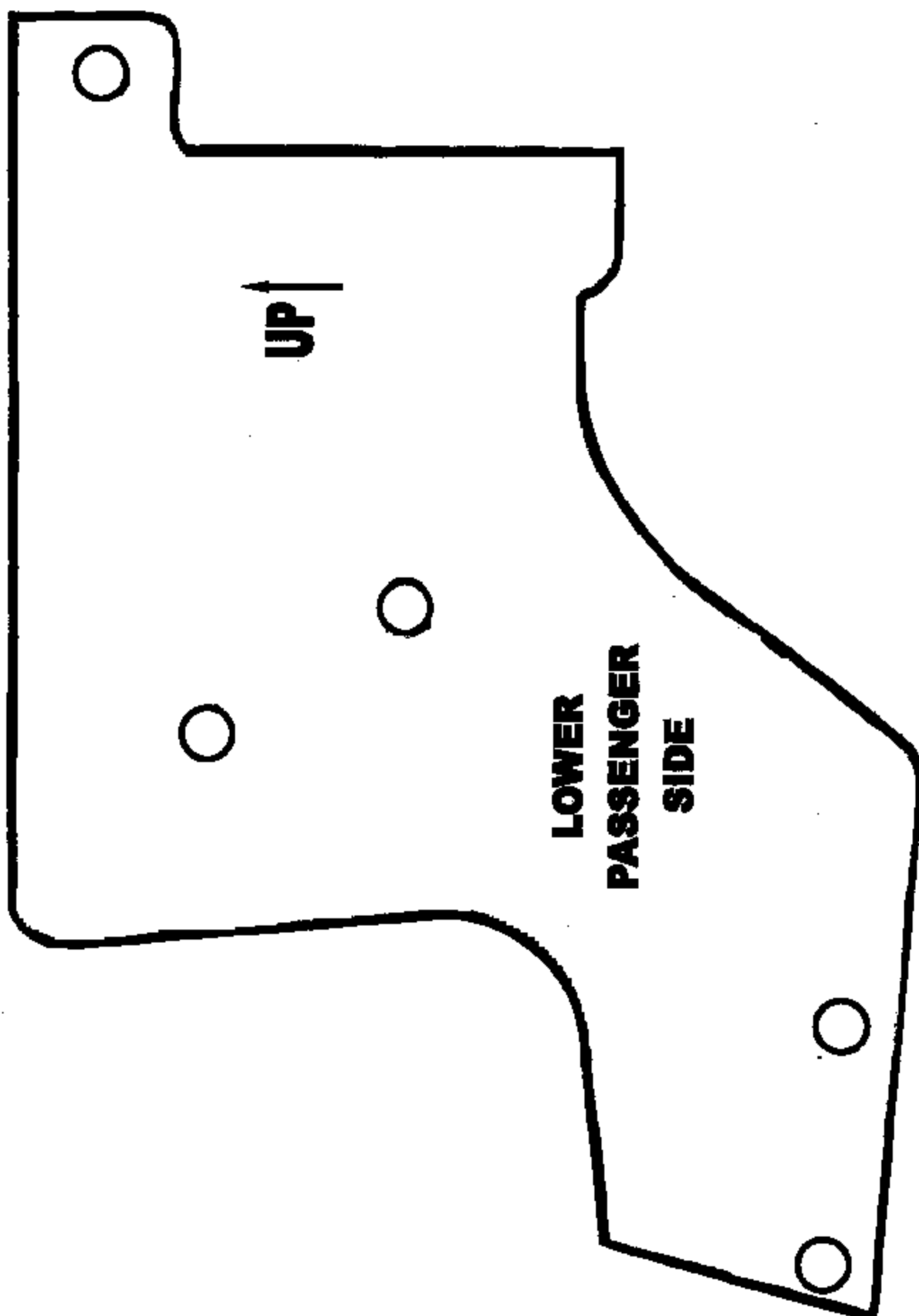
Service Procedure (Continued)

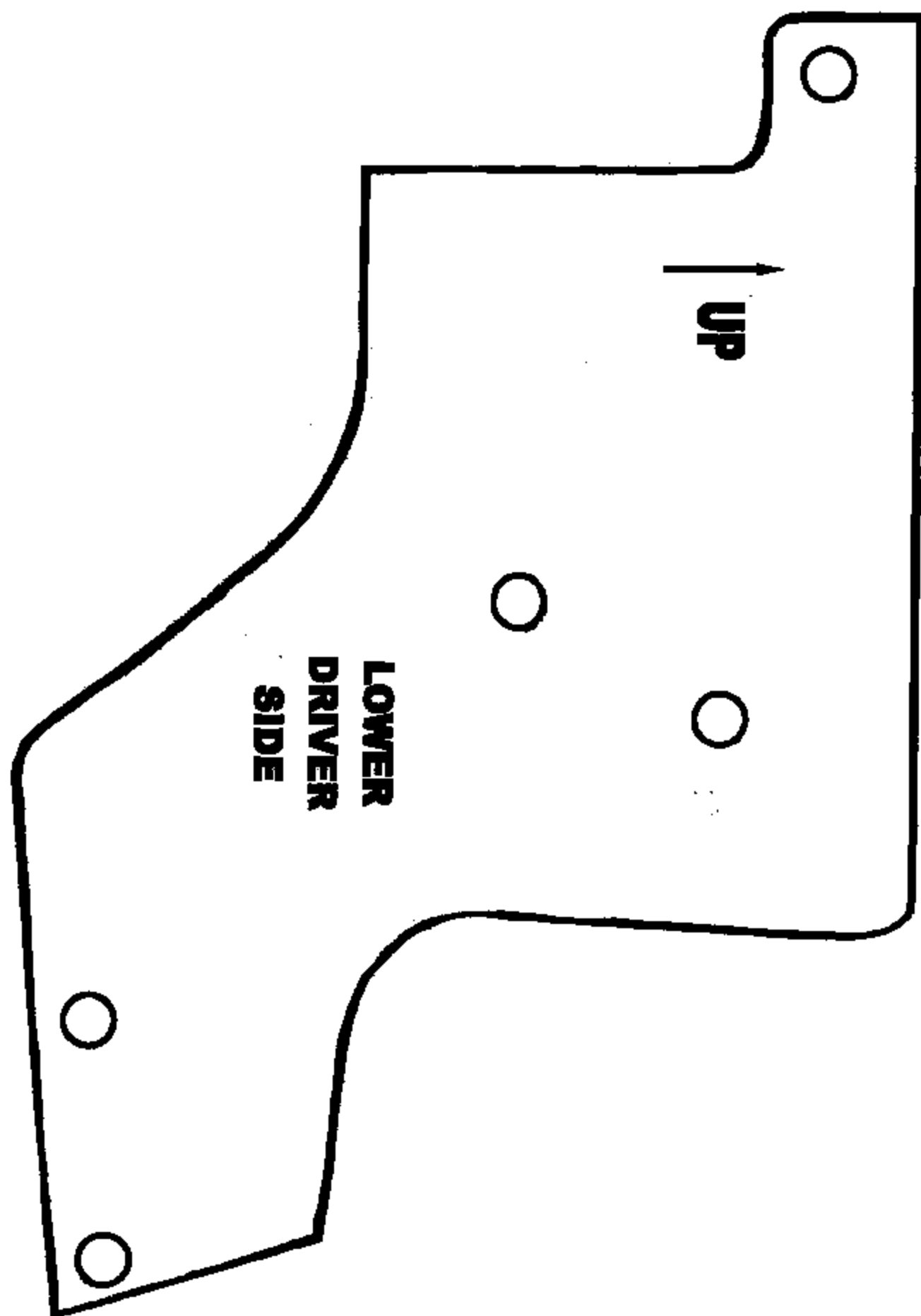
7. Mark the 18 locations shown in Figure 3 on the rear floorpan reinforcement with a center punch, permanent marker or paint pen.
8. Using a 9/32" (7 mm) bit, drill a hole through the reinforcement and the floorpan at each location. Ensure that the center line of each hole is no less than 3/8" (10 mm) from the nearest edge.
9. Vacuum any metal shavings from the vehicle.
10. Using the W-AK175ACH Power Set Riveter, install a structural rivet (Mopar P/N 06034573) at each location.
11. Install an interior mastic patch (Mopar P/N 02654684) over each structural rivet.
12. Install the guides for the wiring harness and battery cable into their original locations.
13. Return the floor silencer pad to its original position.
14. Install the rear seat back. Tighten the six (6) seat back nuts to 35 ft-lbs (47 N·m).
15. Install the rear seat cushion.
16. Close the door.
17. Return the trunk floor cover to its original position.
18. Close the trunk lid.











Completion Reporting and Reimbursement

Claims for vehicles that have been serviced must be submitted on the DealerCONNECT Claim Entry Screen located on the Service tab. Claims submitted will be used by DaimlerChrysler to record recall service completions and provide dealer payments.

Use one of the following labor operation numbers and time allowances:

	Labor Operation Number	Time Allowance
Inspect rear floorpan reinforcement spot welds	23-D2-11-81	0.2 hours
Inspect rear floorpan reinforcement spot welds and install rivets	23-D2-11-82	1.0 hours

Add the cost of the parts 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 DMAIL and by first class mail. Two additional copies will be sent through the DCMMS. DealerCONNECT will be updated to include this recall in the near future.

Vehicle Lists, Global Recall System, VIP and Dealer Follow up

All involved vehicles have been entered into the DealerCONNECT Global Recall System (GRS) and Vehicle Information Plus (VIP) for dealer inquiry as needed. Involved dealers were also mailed a copy of their vehicle (VIN) list with the dealer recall notification letter.

GRS provides involved dealers with an updated VIN list of their incomplete vehicles. The owner's name, address and phone number are listed if known. Completed vehicles are removed from GRS within several days of repair claim submission.

To use this system, click on the "Service" tab and then click on "Global Recall System." Your dealer's VIN list for each recall displayed can be sorted by: those vehicles that were unsold at recall launch, those with a phone number, city, zip code, or VIN sequence.

Dealers must perform this repair on all unsold vehicles before retail delivery. Dealers should also use the VIN list to follow up with all owners to schedule appointments for this repair.

Recall VIN lists may contain confidential, restricted owner name and address information that was obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles of various states. Use of this information is permitted for this recall only and is strictly prohibited from all other use.

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 generic copy of the owner letter is attached.

Enclosed with each owner letter is an Owner Notification postcard to allow owners to update our records if applicable.

Additional Information

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing this action, please contact your Service and Parts District Manager.

Customer Services Field Operations
DaimlerChrysler Corporation

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

*Buckle up
for Safety!*

SAFETY RECALL – REAR FLOORPAN REINFORCEMENT SPOT WELDS

Dear: (Name)

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. DaimlerChrysler Corporation has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in a small number of 2005 model year Chrysler 300 and Dodge Magnum vehicles.

The problem is... A spot welding operation for the rear floorpan reinforcement on your vehicle (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) may not have been performed. This could cause the rear seat belt anchors and/or the child seat anchors to separate in certain crash conditions, which can increase the risk of injury to rear seat passengers.

What your dealer will do... DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will inspect the rear floorpan reinforcement for missing welds and install structural rivets if necessary. The inspection will take only a few minutes while the rivet installation will require about an 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. Remember to bring this letter with you to your dealer.

If you need help... If you have questions or concerns which your dealer is unable to resolve, please contact DaimlerChrysler at 1-800-853-1403.

Please help us update our records, by filling out the enclosed prepaid postcard, if any of the conditions listed on the card apply to you or your vehicle. Be sure to print the last eight (8) characters of the VIN (VVVVVVVV) and notification code D21 on the postcard.

If you have already experienced this condition 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, P.O. Box 610207, Port Huron, MI 48061-0207, 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.

Customer Services Field Operations
DaimlerChrysler Corporation
D21

Note to lessors receiving this recall: Federal regulation requires that you forward this recall notice to the lessee within 10 days.