

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

RECEIVED
NVS-210

2005 MAR 25 P 2:13

OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

March 23, 2005

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter
Acting Associate Administrator, Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

Reference: NHTSA Identification Number 04V-600

Enclosed are representative copies of communications relating to the 2002 through 2005 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. DaimlerChrysler expects to notify dealers during the week of March 28, 2005 and to begin owner notification during the week of April 4, 2005. The exact number of manufactured vehicles in the recall is 26,851.

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

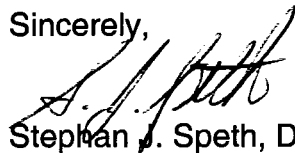
<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
25259154	25426157
35397201	35599571
45568506	45710519
55712878	55754307

(VIN last eight characters) - 2 = 2002, 3 = 2003, 4 = 2004, 5 = 2005; 5 = Duesseldorf Assembly Plant, Germany; 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 D53

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

March 2005

Dealer Service Instructions for:

Safety Recall D53 -- Tire Valve Stems

Models

2002-2005 (VA) Dodge and Freightliner Sprinter 2500 vehicles

NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles built from April 12, 2001 through December 31, 2004.

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

The tire valves on about 26,800 of the above vehicles may develop a leak under high ambient temperature conditions and cause a loss of tire air pressure. This could result in a loss of vehicle control and cause a crash without warning.

Repair

All of the tire valve stems must be replaced.

Parts Information

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
CBCBD530	Tire Valve Stem Package

Each package contains five (5) tire valve stem assemblies (with cap).

Each dealer to whom vehicles in the recall were invoiced will receive enough Tire Valve Stem Packages to service about 25% of those vehicles.

Service Procedure

1. Raise the vehicle on an appropriate hoist.
2. Mark each tire with its mounting location on the vehicle.
3. Remove the wheel bolts and wheel covers on all four wheel and tire assemblies.
4. Remove the four wheel and tire assemblies.
5. Transport the four wheel and tire assemblies to the appropriate tire mounting/dismounting equipment location.
6. Mark the location and size of all tire weights on the side wall of the tire. This will ensure that the tire does not need to be rebalanced.
7. Using a tire valve core and stem tool, unscrew and remove the valve core to deflate the tire.
8. Using the appropriate tire mounting/dismounting equipment, disengage the outer wall of the tire from the wheel in the area of the tire valve stem.

Service Procedure (Continued)

9. Cut and remove the outer portion of the tire valve stem with a pair of diagonal pliers (Figure 1). Use a shop rag or towel to protect the wheel from damage.

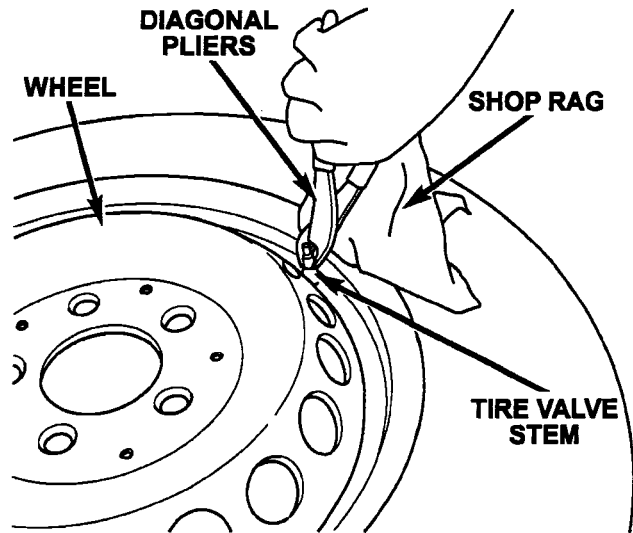


Figure 1 – Steel Wheel Shown

10. Reach between tire and wheel and removing remaining portion of the tire valve stem (Figure 2).

CAUTION: Do not allow the remaining portion of the tire valve to fall into the tire.

11. Using the valve stem inserter tool (Snap-On P.N. VT1A or equivalent), install the new tire valve stem into wheel. Use a shop rag or towel to protect the wheel from damage.

CAUTION: The new tire valve must be inserted dry with no lubricant applied.

12. Before mounting tire on wheel, make sure the wheel rim bead is clean to ensure a proper seal between the rim and tire.

13. Remount tire to wheel rim using appropriate tire mounting device.

CAUTION: Be sure that the alignment mark made in Step 6 is still aligned with the outer wheel weight.

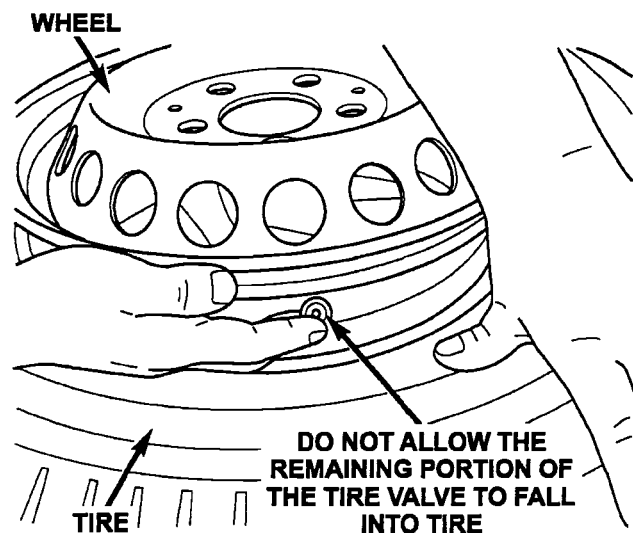


Figure 2 – Steel Wheel Shown

Service Procedure (Continued)

14. Inflate the tire to the specified pressure.
The specified tire pressures can be found on the vehicle label located on the driver's side outboard seat riser (Figure 3).

NOTE: If the tire pressure label is missing or unreadable, use the following tire pressures for the appropriate tire size and axle location:

15 Inch Tires

Front Axle: 51 psi

Rear Axle: 70 psi

16 Inch Tires

Front Axle: 55 psi

Rear Axle: 80 psi

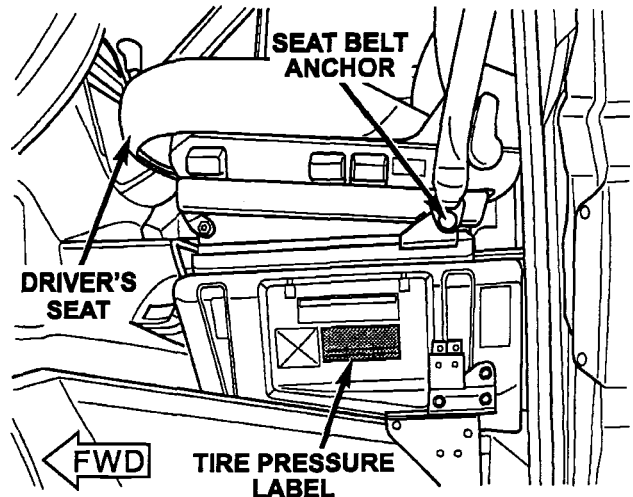


Figure 3

NOTE: Use the front tire pressure specification for the spare tire.

15. Repeat Steps 6 through 11 for all four tire and wheel assemblies removed from the vehicle.
16. Install the wheels on vehicle in the same position from which they were removed. Snug tighten the wheel bolts. Use a cross pattern sequence when tightening the wheel bolts.

WARNING: Never apply oil or grease to the wheel bolts.

17. Snap the wheel covers onto the wheel bolts.
18. Lower the vehicle.
19. Tighten the wheel bolts to 177 ft-lb (240 N·m) for steel wheel applications. Tighten the wheel bolts to 138 ft-lb (190 N·m) for alloy wheel applications. Use a cross pattern sequence when tightening the wheel bolts.

Service Procedure (Continued)

20. Locate and remove the spare tire and wheel assembly.

➤ Vehicles with the spare tire mounted under the vehicle:

- a. Remove the bolts for the spare tire hold down (Figure 4).
- b. Push up on the spare tire carrier and push the hold down hooks to the side, then lower the carrier.
- c. Remove the spare tire.

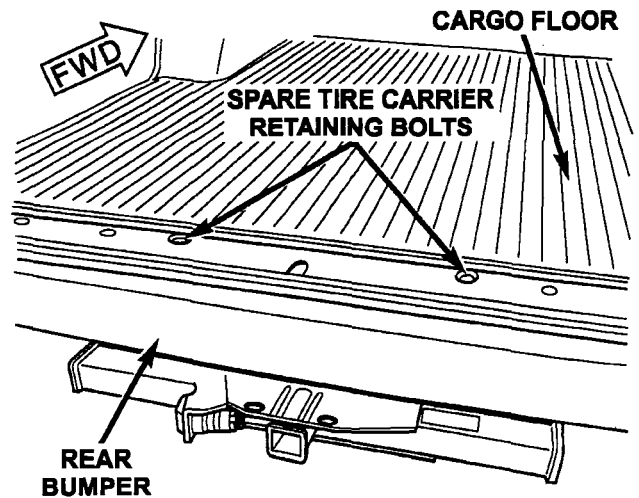


Figure 4

➤ Vehicles with the spare tire mounted inside the cargo area:

- a. Turn the spare tire holder to loosen.
- b. Remove the spare tire.

21. Repeat Steps 6 through 14 to replace the tire valve stem on the spare tire.

22. Install the spare tire into the vehicle.

➤ Vehicles with the spare tire mounted under the vehicle:

- a. Place the spare tire onto the spare tire carrier with the valve stem side down to accommodate future pressure checks.
- b. Push up on the spare tire carrier and push the hold down hooks back into position to hold the carrier.
- c. Install the retaining bolts.

➤ Vehicles with the spare tire mounted inside the cargo area:

- a. Place the spare tire onto the spare tire carrier with the valve stem side of the wheel exposed to accommodate future pressure checks.
- b. Tighten the spare tire holder.

23. Return the vehicle to the customer.

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 the following labor operation number and time allowance:

	Labor Operation Number	Time Allowance
Replace the tire valve stems on five wheel and tire assemblies	22-D5-31-82	1.3 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.

Dealer Notification

All dealers will receive a copy of this dealer recall notification letter by mail. Two additional copies will be sent through the DCMMS. To view this notification on DealerCONNECT, select “Global Recall System” on the Service tab, then click on the description of this notification.

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.

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.

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.

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 – TIRE VALVES

Dear: (Name)

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. DaimlerChrysler has decided that a potential defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2002 through 2005 model year Dodge Sprinter and Freightliner Sprinter 2500 vehicles.

The problem is... **The tire valves on your Sprinter (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) may develop a leak under high ambient temperature conditions and cause a loss of tire air pressure. This could result in a loss of vehicle control and cause a crash without warning.**

What your dealer will do... **DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your Sprinter dealer will replace all of the original wheel tire valve stem assemblies on your vehicle (including the spare). The work will take about two hours 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 Sprinter 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.****

Owner Manual Addendum... **Sprinter tire valves are tested and certified under rough operating conditions. Test results indicate that the installation of additional **hub caps or other wheel simulators** could cause damage to the tire valve and lead to a loss of air pressure at the valve stem. **Please do not install any of these parts onto your Sprinter vehicles.** To ensure safe and reliable operation of your Sprinter vehicles, use only original DaimlerChrysler approved parts.**

Please insert this letter into your vehicle's Owner's Manual for use by you or future owners.

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 D53 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 service 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
Notification Code D53

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