

ElDorado National

— a **THOR** company —



RECEIVED
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DEFECT INVESTIGATION

Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

050-194

(9 pages)

Re: Defect and Non-Compliance Report

Associate Administrator for Enforcement:

ElDorado National, a Thor Company, has determined that a defect exists involving the fuel line on certain Amerivan lower-floor conversions built on Chrysler minivan chassis. Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573, ElDorado National is hereby notifying the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of this defect which has been determined by ElDorado National to be safety related.

- A. Identification of Vehicles. ElDorado National has determined that a defect may be present on certain 2004 and 2005 model year Amerivan lower-floor conversions manufactured between November 2003 and December 2004. The total number of Amerivans subject to this recall campaign is 39. Specific information regarding each of the Amerivans subject to this recall campaign is set forth in the attached Exhibit "A."
- B. Description of Defect. The defect identified by ElDorado National involves the metal fuel line that runs along the lowered floor portion of the Amerivans. At the rear of the van, the fuel line in questions makes a 90 degree turn to the bottom of the lowered floor, at which point a rubber fuel line is attached. The blocks that fasten the metal fuel line to the lowered floor may not prevent the fuel line from rotating which could cause the rubber fuel line to come in close proximity to the van's exhaust system. If the rubber fuel line is in close proximity to the exhaust system, a fire could occur and result in injury or death to the occupants of the vehicle.
- C. Remedying of Defect. The program to be implemented by ElDorado National to remedy the defect will include notification to all registered owners of the subject Amerivans who have submitted a proper warranty registration card. The owners will be advised to bring their Amerivan to an authorized ElDorado National dealer for repair. The repair of the defect will consist of placing a P-clamp on the attached rubber fuel line that will prevent the rubber fuel line from coming in close proximity to the van's exhaust system. The procedure for attaching the P-clamp will be provided to ElDorado National's authorized dealers as set forth in the Technical Bulletin referred to below. As set forth in the enclosed owner notification, the defect will be corrected by ElDorado National at no expense to the owner.
- D. Recall Notifications. Enclosed as Exhibit "B" is the proposed notification entitled

"Safety Recall Notice" that will be sent to the registered owners of the Amerivans subject to this recall campaign. Enclosed as Exhibit "C" is the proposed notification entitled "Technical Bulletin" that will be sent to ElDorado National's authorized dealers in connection with this recall campaign. Also enclosed as Exhibit "D" is a draft of the language to be included on a postcard to be forwarded with the technical bulletin to all the dealers. I have also enclosed a copy of the envelope that will contain the Safety Recall Notice and the Technical Bulletin to be sent to the registered owners and the dealers, respectively.

The enclosed documents are being submitted to NHTSA for your pre-review. ElDorado National intends to mail the Safety Recall Notices to the registered owners and the Technical Bulletins to its authorized dealers within thirty (30) days after receiving approval of these documents by NHTSA and the release of the NHTSA recall information to ElDorado National.

- E. Campaign Number. ElDorado National has not designated an internal campaign number for this recall campaign. Rather, ElDorado National will reference the recall number assigned by NHTSA.

I would appreciate your providing any recommendations that you may have with respect to the enclosed documents at your earliest convenience. I trust that you will find the enclosed documents comply with the NHTSA regulations and will approve the documents for form and content.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Best Regards,



David McMullen
ElDorado National
Customer Service

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Daniel A. Bensman

UNITS & THE DEALER THAT SOLD THE EFFECTED UNIT BEING RECALLED

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DEALER

1	11/10/2003	2004	Chrysler	2077	2D4GP44L54R553540	Advanced Mobility	7720 N. Sepulda Blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91405	818-780-1240
2	12/15/2003	2004	Chrysler	2078	2DXGP44L74R553538	Advanced Mobility	7720 N. Sepulda Blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91405	818-780-1240
3	3/29/2004	2004	Chrysler	2084	2D4GP44L64R555233	Advanced Mobility	7720 N. Sepulda Blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91405	818-780-1240
4	5/17/2004	2005	Chrysler	2314	1D4GP24R35D173072	Advanced Mobility	7720 N. Sepulda Blvd. Van Nuys, CA 91405	818-780-1240

5	1/12/2004	2004	Chrysler	2081	2D4GP44L24R555231	AMS Washington	21104 70th Ave West Edmonds, WA 98026	425-771-4659
6	11/15/2004	2005	Chrysler	2713	1D4GP24R25B102834	AMS	21104 70th Ave West Edmonds, WA 98026	425-771-4659
7	11/22/2004	2005	Chrysler	2746	2D4GP24R55R107530	AMS	21104 70th Ave West Edmonds, WA 98026	425-771-4659

8	2/23/2004	2004	Chrysler	2082	2D4GP44LX4R555235	Nor Cal	1300 Nord Ave Chico, CA 95926	530-893-1111
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9	3/15/2004	2004	Chrysler	2083	2D4GP44L84R555234	Ride Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444
10	3/22/2004	2004	Chrysler	2079	2D4GP44L94R553539	Ride Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444
11	4/19/2004	2004	Chrysler	2080	2D4GP44L44R555232	Ride Away/Wash DC	6413 Old Alexandria Ferry Rd Clinton, MD 20735	301-856-2650
12	5/24/2004	2005	Chrysler	2329	1D4GP24R25B173077	Ride Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444
13	5/31/2004	2005	Chrysler	2330	1D4GP24R75B172569	Ride Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444
14	8/23/2004	2005	Chrysler	2331	1D4GP24R55B173073	Ride Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444
15	8/23/2004	2005	Chrysler	2332	1D4GP24R75B173074	Ride Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444
16	10/18/2004	2003	Chrysler	2707	2C4GP44373R332422	Ride-Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444
17	10/11/2004	2003	Chrysler	2705	1C4GP44343R310698	Ride-Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444
18	10/25/2004	2003	Chrysler	2708	1D4GP24333B260138	Ride-Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444
19	10/25/2004	2004	Chrysler	2709	1D4GP24R24B503606	Ride-Away	54 Wentworth Ave Londonderry, NH 03053	603-437-4444

20	6/21/2004	2004	Chrysler	2339	1D4GP24R04B594312	H D S (GA)	1310 Kennestone Circle Marietta GA 30066	770-422-9674
21	6/28/2004	2004	Chrysler	2333	1D4GP24R74B585137	H D S (GA)	1310 Kennestone Circle Marietta GA 30066	770-422-9674

22	6/28/2004	2005	Chrysler	2317	1D4GP24R95B173075	Advanced Mobility TX	2110 North Beach Ft. Worth, TX 76111	817-429-1273
23	6/28/2004	2005	Chrysler	2316	1D4GP24R05B173076	Advanced Mobility TX	2110 North Beach Ft. Worth, TX 76111	817-429-1273

24	5/17/2004	2005	Chrysler	2315	1D4GP24R15B173071	Advanced Mobility TX	2110 North Beach Ft. Worth, TX 76111	817-429-1273
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25	6/21/2004	2003	Chrysler	2322	1D4GP24R33B575625	Handicapped Services	7215 E. 46th St. Tulsa, OK 74145	918-622-8400
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26	6/28/2004	2003	Chrysler	2426	3B269070	GT Mobility	844 Ontario Rd Greenbay, WI 54311	920-491-8384
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27	8/16/2004	2003	Chrysler	2434	2C4GP44323R356918	Gary Colle	12300 Stowe Dr. Ste A Poway, CA 92064	858-748-9414
28	8/23/2004	2004	Chrysler	2436	1D4GP24R448577660	Gary Colle	12300 Stowe Dr. Ste A Poway, CA 92064	858-748-9414
29	8/23/2004	2003	Chrysler	2435	2C4GP44303R352429	Gary Colle	12300 Stowe Dr. Ste A Poway, CA 92064	858-748-9414

30	9/27/2004	2004	Chrysler	2437	1D4GP24R44B585015	Durocher Auto Sales	92 Elizabeth St. Plattsburg, NY 12901	800-638-9338
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31	10/4/2004	2004	Chrysler	2702	1D4GP24R84B573594	Mobility Freedom FL	20354 US Hwy 27 Clermont, FL 34711	352-429-3972
32	10/4/2004	2004	Chrysler	2698	1D4GP24R94B585026	Mobility Freedom FL	20354 US Hwy 27 Clermont, FL 34711	352-429-3972
33	11/15/2004	2005	Chrysler	2703	1D4GP24R94B585110	Mobility Freedom FL	20354 US Hwy 27 Clermont, FL 34711	352-429-3972

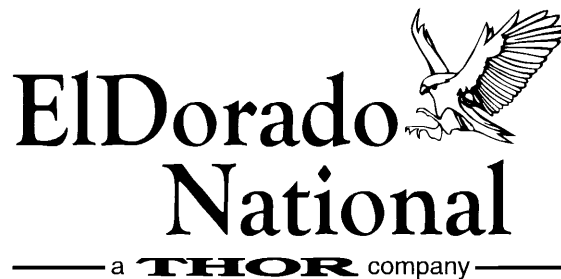
34	10/4/2004	2004	Chrysler	2701	1D4GP24R34B584325	Schetky Norhwest	6435 Colwood Way Portland, OR 97218	503-287-4141
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35	11/1/2004	2005	Chrysler	2727	1D4GP24RX5B101396	Kansas Truck / Stan Shell	1521 S. Tyler Rd Wichita, KS 67209	316-722-4291
36	12/6/2004	2005	Chrysler	2712	1D4GP24R65B123833	Kansas Truck	1521 S. Tyler Rd Wichita, KS 67209	316-722-4291

37	10/11/2004	2004	Chrysler	2699	1D4GP24R84B585020	Sunset Vans	8851 Lakewood Blvd Downey, CA 90240	562-862-2177
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38	10/11/2004	2004	Chrysler	2704	1D4GP24R04B573587	Alamo, Austin	811A Tradesman Park Loop Hutto, TX 78634	512-759-4604
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39	9/27/2004	2004	Chrysler	2700	1D4GP24R14B584288	Alamo, Tampa	6712 Benjamin Ste 800 Tampa, FL 33634	813-249-7666
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SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

**NHTSA RECALL CAMPAIGN NO.: 05V-_____
RUBBER FUEL LINE CLAMP**

Dear Owner:

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

ElDorado National has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Amerivans manufactured between November 2003 and December 2004. According to our records, the Amerivan sold to you may contain this potential defect.

The defect involves a rubber fuel line that may come in close proximity to the Amerivan's exhaust system. Failure to correct this defect could result in a fire occurring without warning, which could result in injury or death to the occupants of the vehicle.

The remedy for this recall campaign will consist of attaching a P-clamp to the rubber fuel line to prevent the rubber fuel line from coming in close proximity with the van's exhaust system. This repair will be done at no charge to you.

You may contact your ElDorado National dealer to arrange for a service appointment. If you need assistance in locating a dealer in your area or you are having difficulty scheduling a service appointment, please contact us at 800-955-9086 ext 427. A Technical Bulletin containing instructions for making this correction have been sent to your dealer and the P-clamps necessary to make the repair are readily available.

While the time for remedying the defect is expected to take less than one-half hour, your dealer may require you to leave your vehicle for a longer period of time to allow for the scheduling of the remedy.

If the defect referred to above has been repaired on your Amerivans prior to the receipt of this Safety Recall Notice and if you incurred any costs in connection with obtaining such repair, you may seek reimbursement from ElDorado National by contacting us at address set forth below.

Federal regulations require that any lessor receiving this letter must forward the letter to the lessee within ten (10) days.

ElDorado National has notified the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration of this recall campaign and the procedures involved. However, if you have difficulty getting your vehicle repaired in a reasonable time or without charge, you may write the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590 or call the toll free Auto Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. McMullen', written in a cursive style.

David McMullen
ElDorado National
Customer Service



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

**THIS NOTICE IS SENT TO YOU IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND
MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT.**

**ELDORADO NATIONAL HAS DECIDED THAT A DEFECT
WHICH RELATES TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY EXISTS
IN CERTAIN CHRYSLER AMERIVANS.**

**THE ATTACHED LIST SHOWS THE UNIT OR UNITS YOU
HAVE SOLD THAT COULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING
DEFECT.**

**THE REGISTERED OWNERS OF THE UNITS SOLD BY
YOU HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO CONTACT YOU IN
ORDER TO MAKE THE REPAIR REFERRED TO BELOW.
PLEASE REPAIR ALL UNITS SUBJECT TO THIS
RECALL CAMPAIGN AT NO CHARGE TO THE
OWNERS. ONCE THE REPAIR HAS BEEN COMPLETED,
PLEASE COMPLETE THE POSTCARD PROVIDED BY
THE OWNER AND SEND THE POSTCARD TO
ELDORADO NATIONAL TO NOTIFY US THAT THE
WORK HAS BEEN PERFORMED AND TO MAKE YOUR
CLAIM FOR PAYMENT.**

**ALL UNSOLD AMERIVANS IN YOUR POSSESSION
THAT ARE SUBJECT TO THIS RECALL CAMPAIGN
MUST BE REPAIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
PROCEDURES SET FORTH IN THIS TECHNICAL
BULLETIN BEFORE THE UNITS CAN BE SOLD.
ACCORDINGLY, PLEASE MAKE THE NECESSARY
REPAIRS SET FORTH HEREIN PRIOR TO SELLING OR
OTHERWISE RELEASING THE SUBJECT UNITS.**

**FAILURE TO COMPLY CAN CAUSE FIRE AND PERSONAL
INJURY OR DEATH.**

MODELS:
Dodge Amerivans built
from 9-15-2003 to
12-30-2004

DATE:

SUBJECT:
Rubber Fuel line clamp

TIME ALLOWED:
.25 hour plus cost of part

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

CONCERN: Fuel Line coming into close proximity to the exhaust.

CAUSE: ElDorado National runs metal fuel lines along the lowered floor portion of the conversion. At the rear of the van the fuel line in question makes a 90 degree bend back up to the bottom of the OEM floor, at this point a rubber fuel line is attached. The cause of the defect is two-fold, the blocks that hold the metal fuel line to the lowered floor may not prevent the line from rotating. Also with out a P-clamp on the attached rubber fuel line, the metal line can rotate which could place the rubber line into close proximity to the exhaust system.

SOLUTION: Add a clamp to the rubber fuel line to prevent the metal line from rotating. Refer to picture number 3 on page 3.

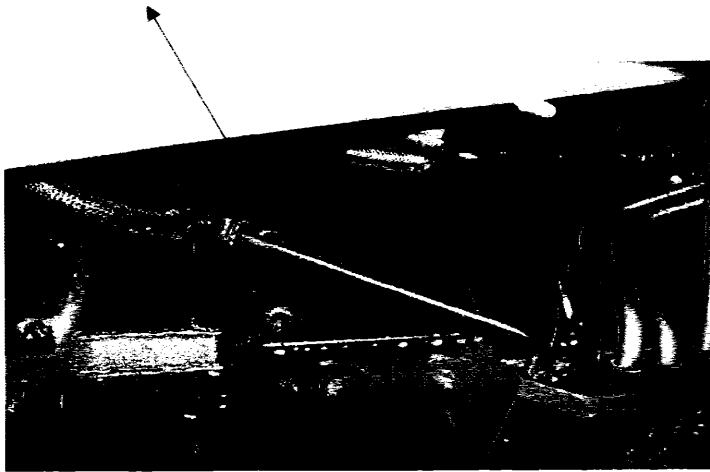
PICTURES:

Fuel line coming next to Exhaust

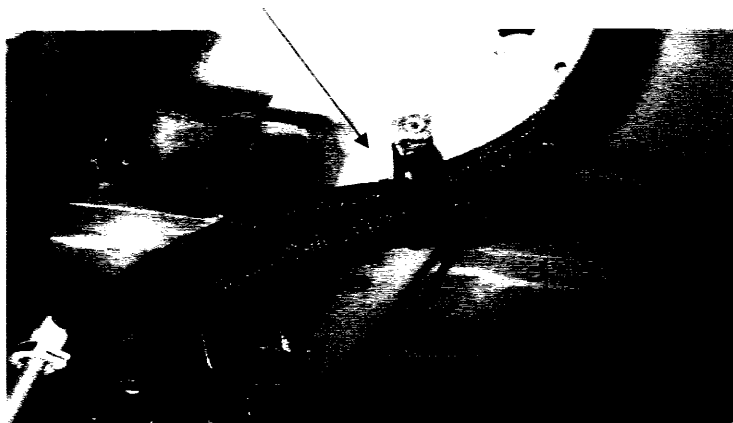


TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Metal Fuel line rotated



Clamp added to rubber fuel line to prevent line from moving down



WHEN COMPLETED:

When completed please send the post card accompanying this notice back to ENC to notify us that the work has been performed.