

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

05V-554
(11 pages)

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

December 6, 2005

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator of Enforcement, Office of Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

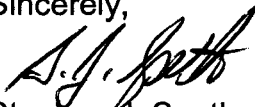
RECEIVED
NHTSA-215
2005 DEC - 8 A 10:43
OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Dear Mr. Smith:

Attached is DaimlerChrysler Corporation's (DCC'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 some 2006 model year Dodge Durango vehicles. Vehicles equipped with the anti-lock brake system (ABS), but not the electronic stability program (ESP), may experience ABS and red brake warning lamp illumination followed by a loss of electronic brake distribution (EBD), which could cause the rear brakes to lock up during certain braking conditions. This can occur due to a fault in the ABS control module software. There have been no reports of vehicle crash or injury associated with this condition.

DCC will conduct a voluntary safety recall to reprogram the ABS control module on the affected vehicle population with new software that prevents this condition.

Sincerely,



Stephan J. Speth

Enclosures: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall E20
Dealer and Owner Notification Letters for Recall E20

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

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL E20

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Submission date: December 6, 2005

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume (estimated)	Other
Dodge	Durango	2006	7/8/05 – 9/30/05	16,317	with ABS but not ESP

The involved Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) range is:

<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
6F100166	6F131709

VIN last eight characters – 6 = 2006 model year; F = Newark Assembly Plant, Newark, Delaware; and the last six digits = sequential number.

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

Estimated percentage containing defect: 100%

Description of defect:

The anti-lock brake system (ABS) control module software may cause the rear brakes to lock up during certain braking conditions. This could result in a loss of vehicle control and cause a crash without warning.

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

Robert Bosch Corporation
3800 Hills Tech Drive
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331
(248) 553-1000

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL E20

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The following chronology of principal events occurred in October and November of 2005 and led to the determination of a defect:

- On October 10, 2005, a 2006 model year Dodge Durango at DaimlerChrysler Corporation's (DCC's) Newark Assembly Plant final validation line detected ABS fault messages.
- Newark Assembly Plant held all vehicles. Investigation found that ABS fault messages were being generated based on incorrect tire size data. It was believed there was no affect on the vehicle's foundation brake system.
- The ABS control module software was updated to correctly evaluate tire size and a production evaluation run (PER) was successfully completed on October 17, 2005.
- All held vehicles at Newark Assembly Plant were reprogrammed and released on October 21, 2005.
- Further investigation in late October and into November determined that the ABS control module software fault could illuminate the red brake warning lamp in addition to the ABS lamp. Investigation also showed that vehicles with ABS and ESP do not have the potential for this condition.
- Evaluation to intentionally induce this software fault showed that a loss of electronic brake distribution (EBD) could occur during certain braking events. Although this condition would always be preceded by illumination of the ABS warning lamp in conjunction with the red brake warning lamp and audible chime, evaluation showed that a loss of EBD could potentially result in rear brake lock-up.
- This software fault is reset upon key-off and may not reoccur.
- This ABS control module software is new for the 2006 model year Dodge Durango. ABS control module software was developed by two separate groups at the supplier, depending whether the vehicle was also equipped with ESP.
- There are no known reports of accidents, injuries, or property damage associated with this condition. A review of available field data found 90 reports of ABS and/or red brake warning lamp illumination that may be related to this ABS software condition.
- This data was presented on November 29, 2005 to the Vehicle Regulations Committee who decided to conduct a safety recall to reprogram the ABS control module software on the affected vehicle population.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

DCC will reprogram the ABS control module on the affected vehicle population with new software that prevents this condition. Due to the need for certain braking conditions to induce the condition and the lack of any known accidents, injuries, or property damage, DCC has concluded that the three day dealer notification rule does not apply. DCC

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL E20

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expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and to owners the week of December 12, 2005.

DCC 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, DCC, 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.

Dealer Service Instructions for:

Safety Recall E20

Reprogram ABS Control Module

Models

2006 (HB) Dodge Durango

*NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles equipped with ABS (sales code **BRT**) but without ESP (sales code **BNB**) built through September 30, 2005 (MDH 093018).*

IMPORTANT: Some of the involved vehicles may be in dealer new vehicle inventory. Federal law requires you to 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 Antilock Brake System (ABS) control module software program on about 16,300 of the above vehicles may cause the rear brakes to lock up during certain braking conditions. This could result in a loss of vehicle control and cause a crash without warning.

Repair

The ABS control module must be reprogrammed (flashed).

Parts Information

No parts are required to perform this service procedure.

Special Tools

The following existing special tools may be required to perform this repair:

- CH9401* StarSCAN Tool
- CH9404* StarSCAN Vehicle Cable
- CH9409* StarSCAN Documentation Kit
- CH9410* StarSCAN Ethernet Cable 12 ft.
- CH9412* StarSCAN Software Update Device Kit
- NPN TechCONNECT PC
- NPN StarSCAN Software Update CD

* Part of CH9400 kit.

Service Procedure

Reprogram the ABS Control Module

1. Open the hood, install a battery charger and verify that the charging rate provides approximately 13.5 volts.
2. Connect the CH9410 StarSCAN[®] ethernet cable to the StarSCAN and the dealer's network drop.
3. Connect the CH9404 StarSCAN vehicle cable to the StarSCAN and the vehicle.
4. Place the Ignition in the “**RUN**” position, then Power “**ON**” the StarSCAN.
5. Retrieve the old ECU part number. With the StarSCAN on the “**Home**” screen, follow the procedure below:
 - a. Select “**ECU View**”
 - b. Touch the screen to highlight “**ABS**” in the list of modules.
 - c. Record the “**Part Number**” displayed on the “**ECU Overview**” screen.
 - If the ABS module part number is at an “**AE**” level or higher, no further action is required. Remove the StarSCAN and return the vehicle to the customer.
 - If the ABS module part number is at an “**AD**” level or lower, continue with Step 6 of this procedure.

Service Procedure

6. Download the flash file from the internet to the StarSCAN. With the StarSCAN on the "ECU Overview" screen, follow the procedure below:
 - a. Press the "More Options" button on the StarSCAN screen.
 - b. Press the "ECU Flash" button on the StarSCAN screen.
 - c. Select the "ABS Flash" from the list.
 - d. Press the "Browse for New File" button on the StarSCAN screen and then follow the on screen instructions.
 - e. Select the "ABS Flash" from the list.
 - f. Press the "Download to Scan tool" button on the StarSCAN screen..
 - g. Select "Close" after the download is complete and then select "Back".
 - h. Highlight the listed calibration.
 - i. Press the "Update Controller" button on the StarSCAN screen.
 - j. When update is completed, select "OK". Then select "Back".

NOTE: Due to the ABS module programming procedure, a Diagnostic Trouble Code (DTC) may be set in other modules (PCM, TCM, BCM, MIC, SKREEM, etc.) within the vehicle, if so equipped. Some DTC's may cause the MIL to illuminate. From the "Home" screen select "System View". Then select "All DTCs". Press "Clear All Stored DTCs" if there are any DTCs shown on the list.

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
ABS Module Update Previously Performed	18-E2-01-81	0.2 hours
Reprogram ABS Control Module	18-E2-01-82	0.3 hours

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 E20 – REPROGRAM ABS CONTROL MODULE

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 some **2006 model year Dodge Durango vehicles equipped with an Antilock Brake System (ABS).**

The problem is... The ABS control module software program on your vehicle (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) may cause the rear brakes to lock up during certain braking conditions. 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 dealer will reprogram the ABS control module. 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. There are no parts required to reprogram the ABS control module. **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 E20 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 4639 Oak Ridge, TN 37831, 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 Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

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 E20

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