

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

2005 JAN 11 P 4: 53

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation
Stephan J. Speth
Director
Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

January 10, 2005

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

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Reference: NHTSA Identification Number 05V-002

Enclosed are representative copies of communications relating to the 2005 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. DaimlerChrysler expects to notify dealers and owners during the week of January 17, 2005. The exact number of manufactured vehicles in the recall is 947.

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

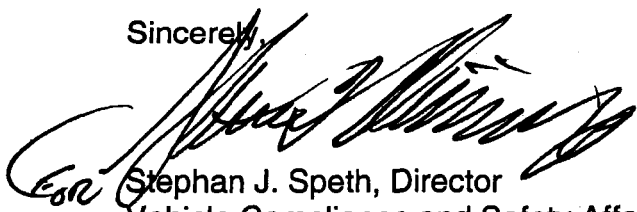
<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
5S100043	5S205930

(VIN last eight characters) - 5 = 2005 model year; 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 D57

cc: K. C. DeMeter

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

January 2005

Dealer Service Instructions for:

Safety Recall D57 - Side Airbag Fasteners

Models

2005 (ND) Dodge Dakota

NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles equipped with side airbag inflatable curtains (Sales Code – CGS or CJ3) built through November 23, 2004 (MDH 112307).

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 VIP inquiry process.

Subject

The side airbag inflatable curtain (SABIC) module fasteners on about 940 of the above vehicles may not have been properly tightened. This may cause improper side air bag deployment in certain side crash conditions, which can increase the risk of injury to vehicle occupants.

Repair

All SABIC module fasteners must be tightened. In addition, the modules must be inspected for damage and replaced if necessary.

Alternate Transportation

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

Parts Information

No parts are required to perform this service procedure unless a SABIC module is damaged, as determined by the inspection in Step 43 of the service procedure. *Very few vehicles are expected to require SABIC module replacement.*

Side Airbag Inflatable Curtain Modules (if necessary)

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Model</u>	<u>Description</u>
55365008AC	Club Cab	SABIC Module – Right Side
55365009AC	Club Cab	SABIC Module – Left Side
55365010AC	Quad Cab	SABIC Module – Right Side
55365011AC	Quad Cab	SABIC Module – Left Side

Due to the small number of involved vehicles expected to require SABIC module replacement, no parts will be distributed initially. SABIC modules should be ordered only after inspection determines that replacement is required.

Service Procedure

NOTE: Only damaged SABIC modules, as determined by the inspection in Step 43, require replacement. Very few vehicles are expected to require SABIC module replacement.

1. Disconnect the negative battery cable.

NOTE: To enhance customer satisfaction, remember to reset the clock when you have completed the service procedure.

2. Open all of the vehicle doors.
3. Remove the headrests from the front seats (Club Cab) or from both front and rear seats (Quad Cab). To release the headrest, insert a small screwdriver into the small hole in the side of the right post base cover and press inward.

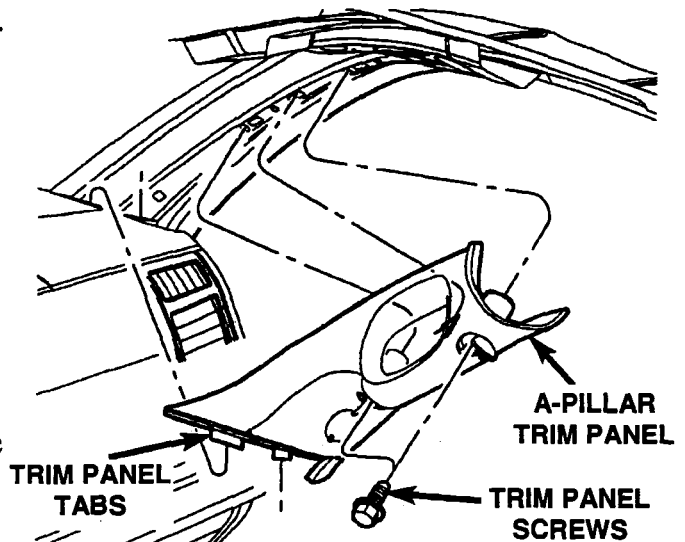


Figure 1

4. Carefully pry open the two (2) fastener covers on the right A-pillar (Figure 1).
5. Remove the two (2) bolts that secure the A-pillar trim panel to the A-pillar and remove the trim panel (Figure 1).
6. Carefully pry open the two (2) fastener covers on the left A-pillar (Figure 1).
7. Remove the two (2) bolts that secure the A-pillar trim panel to the A-pillar and remove the trim panel (Figure 1).
8. Remove the screw that secures the overhead console to the roof panel and then remove the overhead console from the headliner (Figure 2). Disconnect the console electrical connectors and set the console aside.

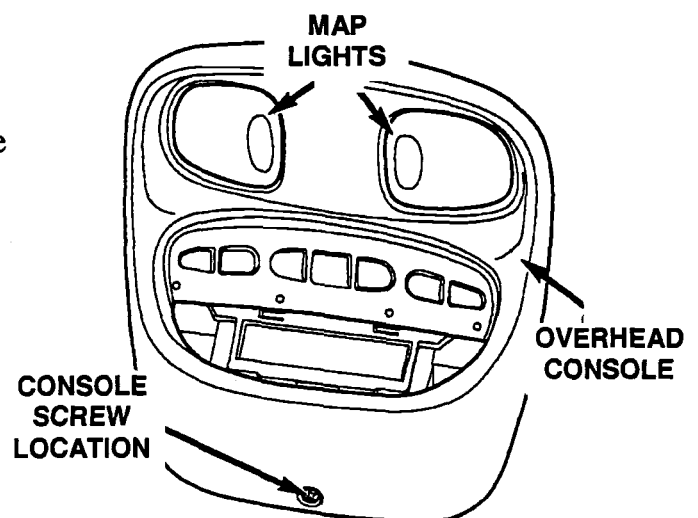


Figure 2

Service Procedure (Continued)

9. Disengage the right sun visor from the sun visor support.
10. Pull out the retainer that secures the right sun visor support to the roof panel and then remove the support from the headliner.
11. Remove the two (2) screws that secure the right sun visor to the roof panel and remove the right sun visor from the headliner (Figure 3).

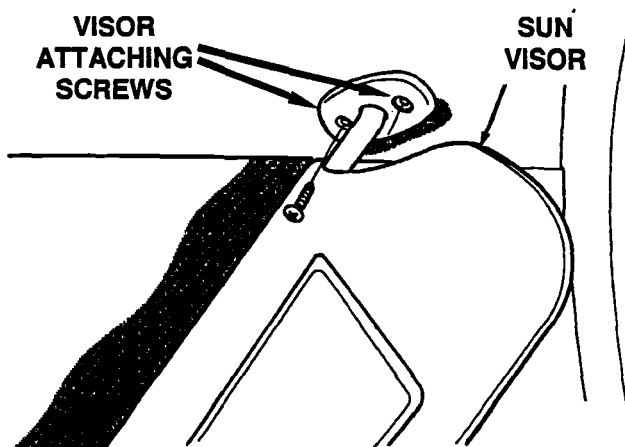


Figure 3

NOTE: Disconnect the illuminated vanity mirror wire harness connector, if equipped.

12. Disengage the left sun visor from the sun visor support.
13. Pull out the retainer that secures the left sun visor support to the roof panel and then remove the support from the headliner.
14. Remove the two (2) screws that secure the left sun visor to the roof panel and remove the left sun visor from the headliner (Figure 3).

NOTE: Disconnect the illuminated vanity mirror wire harness connector, if equipped.

15. **For QUAD Cab Vehicles Only:** Unsnap the trim cover from the right B-pillar adjustable turning loop.
16. **For QUAD Cab Vehicles Only:** Remove the screw that secures the seat belt turning loop to the height adjuster (Figure 4).
17. **For QUAD Cab Vehicles Only:** Remove the upper B-pillar trim panel (Figure 4).

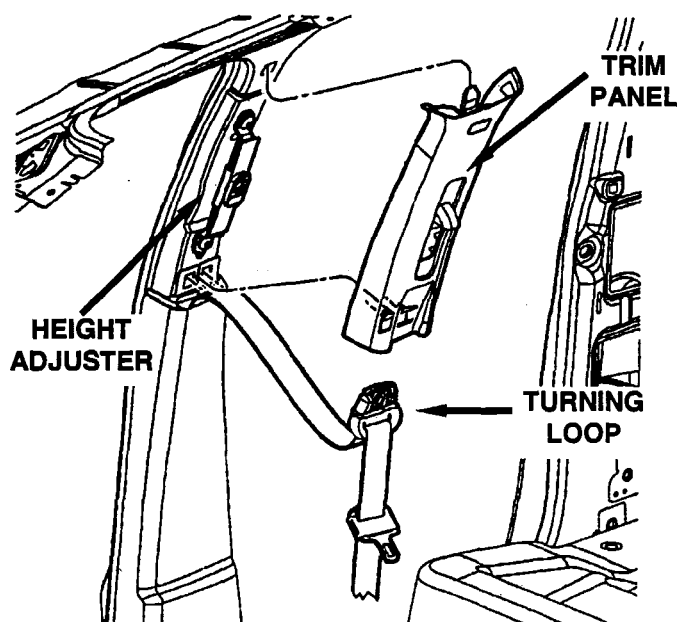


Figure 4

Service Procedure (Continued)

18. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:**
Remove the two (2) screws that secure the **right** upper door striker trim cover to the headliner and then remove the cover (Figure 5).

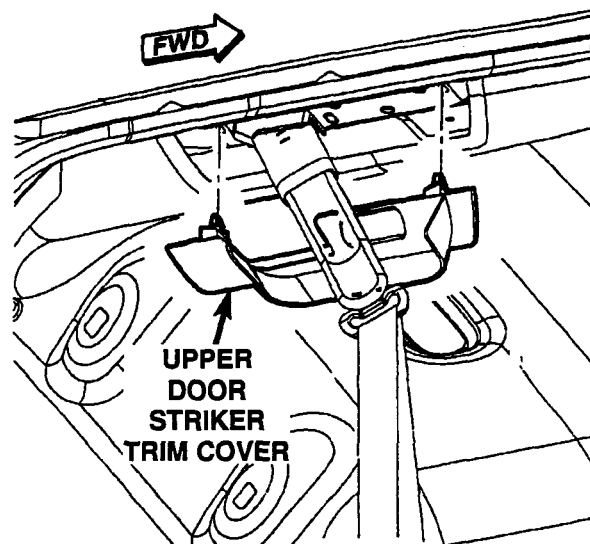


Figure 5

19. Unsnap the trim cover from the **right** rear seat belt turning loop (Figure 6).

20. Remove the screw that secures the right rear seat belt turning loop to the upper C-pillar (Figure 6).

21. Remove the **right** seat belt turning loop from the C-pillar and set it aside (Figure 6).

22. Using a trim stick, disengage the retaining tabs that secure the bottom of the right upper C-pillar trim panel to the upper C-pillar (Figure 6).

23. Pull out and forward on the bottom end of the right upper trim panel so that it does not touch the cab back trim panel. While maintaining the outward pressure, pull the trim panel down and away from the C-pillar and remove it.

24. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:**
Using a trim stick, disengage the retaining tabs that secure the **right** rear door sill scuff plate to the rear door sill and then set it aside.

25. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:**
Using a trim stick, disengage the retaining tabs that secure the right lower C-pillar trim panel to the C-pillar (Figure 6).

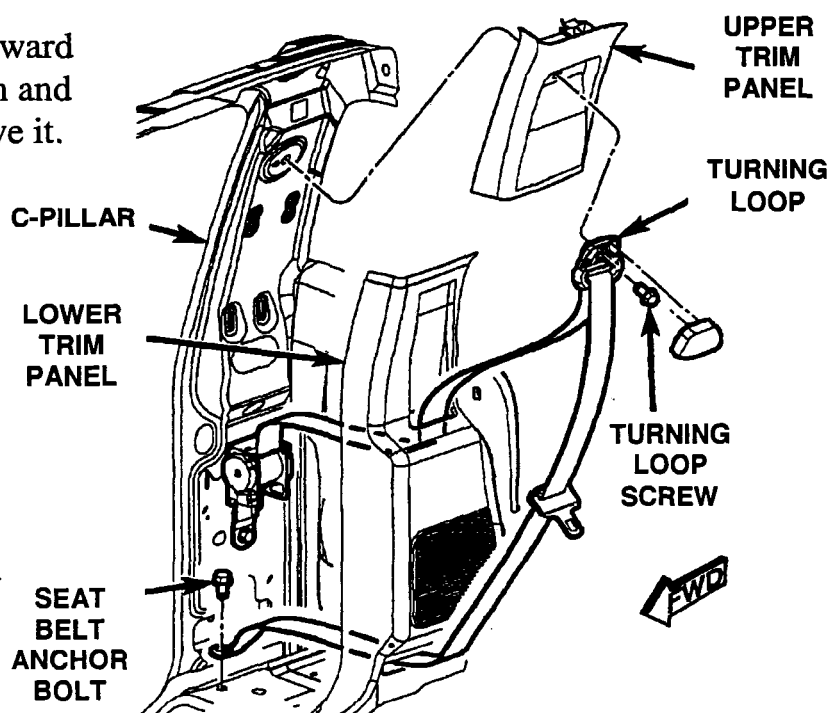
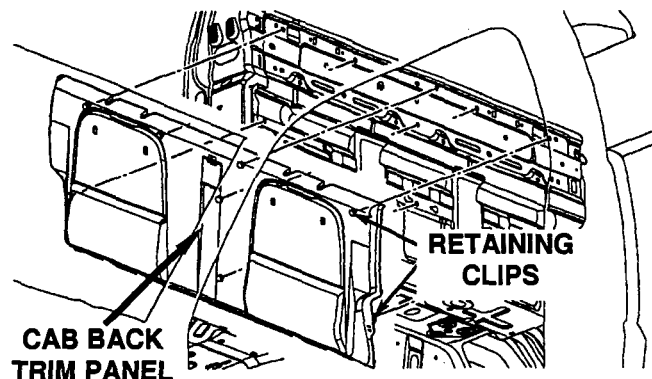


Figure 6

Service Procedure (Continued)

26. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Unsnap the trim cover from the **left** rear seat belt turning loop (Figure 6).
27. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Remove the screw that secures the **left** rear seat belt turning loop to the upper C-pillar (Figure 6).
28. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Remove the **left** seat belt turning loop from the C-pillar and set it aside (Figure 6).
29. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Using a trim stick, disengage the retaining tabs that secure the bottom of the **left** upper C-pillar trim panel to the upper C-pillar (Figure 6).
30. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Pull out and forward on the bottom end of the **left** upper trim panel so that it does not touch the cab back trim panel. While maintaining the outward pressure, pull the trim panel down and away from the C-pillar and remove it.
31. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Using a trim stick, disengage the retaining tabs that secure the **left** rear door sill scuff plate to the rear door sill and then set it aside.
32. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Using a trim stick, disengage the retaining tabs that secure the **left** lower C-pillar trim panel to the C-pillar (Figure 6).
33. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Using a trim stick, disengage the retaining clips that secure the cab back trim panel to the cab and then remove the trim panel (Figure 7).

**Figure 7**

Service Procedure (Continued)

34. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:**
Remove the fasteners that secure the left lower headrest to the cab back (Figure 8).

35. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:**
Lower the left headrest to disengage the upper post from the grommet and then remove the headrest from the vehicle (Figure 8).

36. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:**
Remove the fasteners that secure the right lower headrest to the cab back (Figure 8).

37. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Lower the right headrest to disengage the upper post from the grommet and then remove the headrest from the vehicle (Figure 8).

38. Using a trim stick, disengage the release clip and remove the right rear coat hook from the headliner (Figure 9).

39. Using a trim stick, disengage the release clip and remove the left rear coat hook from the headliner (Figure 9).

40. Remove both upper headrest guides from the headliner.

41. Fully recline both front seat backs.

42. Carefully pull the headliner down and place it on the seat backs.

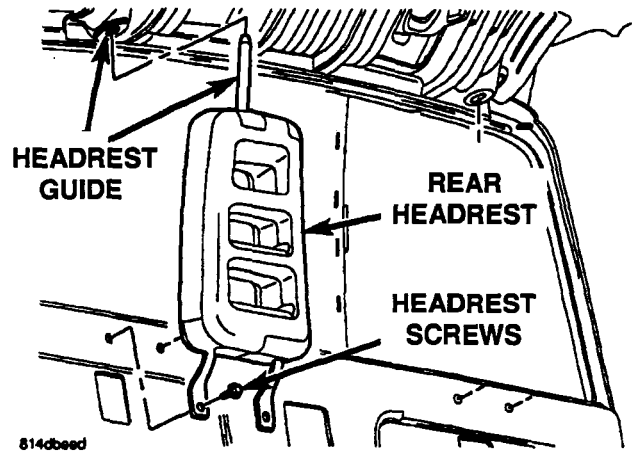


Figure 8

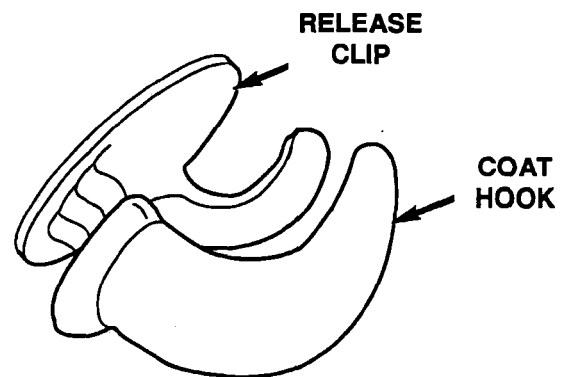


Figure 9

Service Procedure (Continued)

43. Inspect the left and right SABIC modules for damage to the curtain material and/or curtain tether where the sun visor screws were attached to the roof panel (Figure 10).

- 44. ➤ If both SABIC modules are **NOT** damaged, continue with Step 45.
- If a SABIC module has a screw hole in the curtain material or in the tether, then the SABIC module must be replaced as follows:

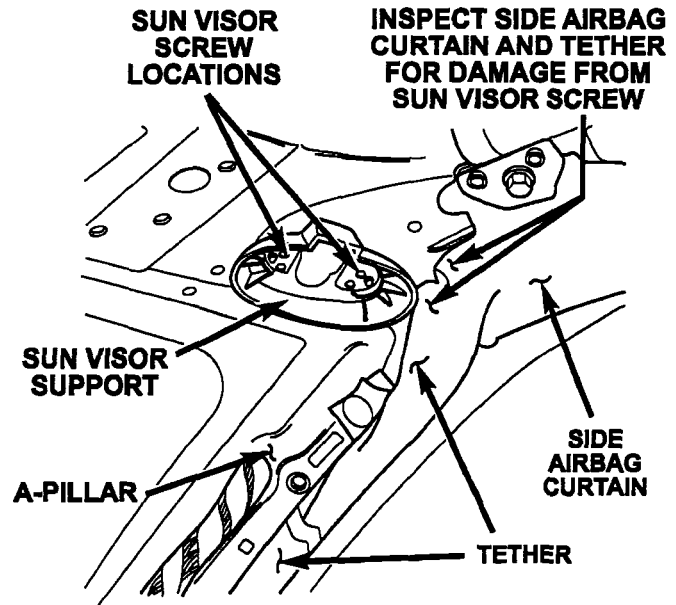


Figure 10

- a. Disconnect the SABIC module wiring harness connector (Figure 11).
- b. Remove the six (6) SABIC module bolts and four (4) push-pin fasteners and remove the damaged module (Figure 11).
- c. Install the new SABIC module. Secure the module with the four (4) push pin fasteners and then loosely install the six (6) module bolts (Figure 11).
- d. Connect the SABIC module wiring harness connector (Figure 11).

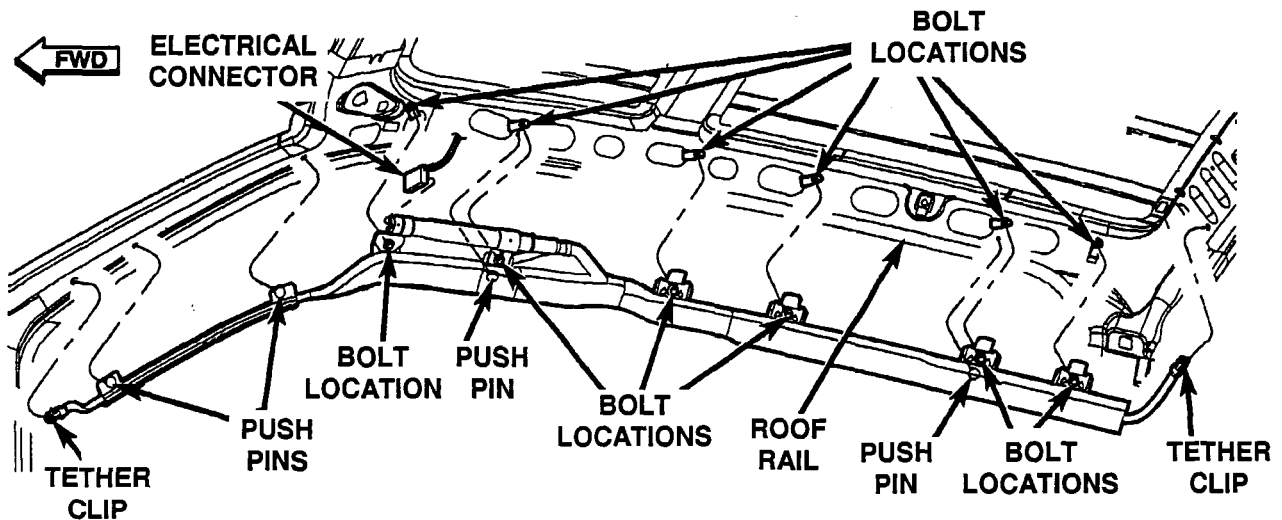


Figure 11

Service Procedure

45. Ensure that the metal clips and plastic retainers at both ends of the SABIC module tethers are properly installed (Figure 11).
46. Using a 10 mm socket, tighten the six (6) bolts on each SABIC module to 50 in-lbs (5.5 N·m) (Figure 11).
47. Install the headliner back into position and ensure that the door seal welts are properly installed over the edge of the headliner.
48. Return the seat backs to the upright position.
49. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install both rear headrest guides into the headliner.
50. Install the left coat hook onto the headliner and engage the release clip (Figure 9).
51. Install the right coat hook onto the headliner and engage the release clip (Figure 9).
52. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Insert the right headrest upper post into the headliner guide (Figure 8).
53. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the fasteners that secure the right rear headrest to the cab back (Figure 8). Tighten the fasteners to 110 in-lbs (12 N·m).
54. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Insert the left headrest upper post into the headliner guide (Figure 8).
55. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the fasteners that secure the left rear headrest to the cab back (Figure 8). Tighten the fasteners to 110 in-lbs (12 N·m).
56. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Feed the child seat upper tethers through the cab back trim panel holes and then install the cab back trim panel engaging the retaining clips that secure the trim panel to the cab (Figure 7).
57. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the lower **left** C-pillar trim panel and engage the retaining tabs that secure the panel to the C-pillar (Figure 6).
58. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the **left** rear door sill scuff plate.

Service Procedure (Continued)

59. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the upper **left** C-pillar trim panel and engage the retaining tabs that secure it to the upper C-pillar (Figure 6).
60. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the **left** rear seat belt turning loop onto the C-pillar (Figure 6).
61. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the screw that secures the seat belt turning loop to the upper **left** C-pillar (Figure 6). Tighten the screw to 30 ft-lbs (39 N·m).
62. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the trim cover onto the **left** rear seat belt turning loop (Figure 7).
63. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the lower **right** C-pillar trim panel and engage the retaining tabs that secure the panel to the C-pillar (Figure 6).
64. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the **right** rear door sill scuff plate.
65. Install the upper **right** C-pillar trim panel and engage the retaining tabs that secure it to the upper C-pillar (Figure 6).
66. Install the **right** rear seat belt turning loop onto the C-pillar (Figure 6).
67. Install the screw that secures the seat belt turning loop to the upper **right** C-pillar (Figure 6). Tighten the screw to 30 ft-lbs (39 N·m).
68. Install the **right** rear seat belt turning loop trim cover (Figure 6).
69. **For CLUB Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the **right** upper door striker trim cover (Figure 5).
70. **For QUAD Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the **right** upper B-pillar trim panel (Figure 4).
71. **For QUAD Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the **right** front seat belt turning loop onto the B-pillar height adjuster (Figure 4).
72. **For QUAD Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the seat belt turning loop to height adjuster screw (Figure 4). Tighten the screw to 30 ft-lbs (39 N·m).

Service Procedure (Continued)

73. **For QUAD Cab Vehicles Only:** Install the **right** front seat belt turning loop trim cover.
74. Install the left sun visor onto the headliner and install the two (2) screws that secure the left sun visor to the roof panel (Figure 3). Tighten the screws to 20 in-lbs (2.2 N·m).
NOTE: Connect the illuminated vanity mirror electrical connector, if equipped.
75. Install the left sun visor support onto the headliner and install the retainer that secures the support to the roof panel.
76. Engage the left sun visor into the sun visor support.
77. Install the right sun visor onto the headliner and install the two (2) screws that secure the right sun visor to the roof panel (Figure 3). Tighten the screws to 20 in-lbs (2.2 N·m).
NOTE: Connect the illuminated vanity mirror electrical connector, if equipped.
78. Install the right sun visor support onto the headliner and install the retainer that secures the support to the roof panel.
79. Engage the right sun visor into the sun visor support.
80. Connect the overhead console electrical connectors and then install the console onto the headliner (Figure 2). Install the console screw and tighten it securely.
81. Install the left A-pillar trim panel and then install the two (2) bolts that secure the trim panel (Figure 1). Tighten the bolts to 55 in-lbs (6 N·m).
82. Install the two (2) fastener covers on the left A-pillar (Figure 1).
83. Install the right A-pillar trim panel and then install the two (2) bolts that secure the trim panel (Figure 1). Tighten the bolts to 55 in-lbs (6 N·m).
84. Install the two (2) fastener covers on the right A-pillar (Figure 1).
85. Install all of the headrests.
86. Connect the negative battery cable.

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:

	<u>Labor Operation Number</u>	<u>Time Allowance</u>
Tighten right and left SABIC modules bolts		
• Club Cab Models	23-D5-71-82	1.0 hours
• Quad Cab Models	23-D5-71-83	0.7 hours
Tighten right or left SABIC module bolts and replace <u>one</u> SABIC module		
• Club Cab Models	23-D5-71-84	1.1 hours
• Quad Cab Models	23-D5-71-85	0.8 hours
Replace both SABIC modules		
• Club Cab Models	23-D5-71-86	1.2 hours
• Quad Cab Models	23-D5-71-87	0.9 hours

Add the cost of the parts, if necessary, 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. This notification can be viewed on DealerCONNECT by selecting “Global Recall System” on the Service tab, then clicking on the description of this notification or by selecting TechCONNECT and “Search Bulletins/Recalls.”

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. 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.

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 – SIDE AIRBAG FASTENERS

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 **2005 model year Dodge Dakota trucks equipped with side airbags.**

The problem is... The side airbag fasteners on your truck (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) may not have been properly tightened. This may cause improper side airbag deployment in certain side crash conditions, which can increase the risk of injury to vehicle occupants.

What your dealer will do... DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will inspect the side airbags and tighten the fasteners to the proper specification. The work will take about 1½ 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 dealer right away to schedule a service 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 D57 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
Notification Code D57

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