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DAIMLERCHRYSLER

2006 FEB -9 A 10: 29

OFFICE OF DEFECTS  
INVESTIGATION

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

February 7, 2006

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

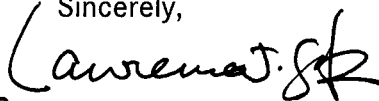
06V-038  
(4 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

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 some 2006 model year Dodge Ram, Dodge Dakota and Mitsubishi Raider vehicles. Vehicles equipped with the four wheel anti-lock brake system (ABS) may experience ABS and red brake warning lamp illumination followed by a loss of electronic brake distribution, which could cause the rear brakes to lock up during certain braking conditions. There have been no reports of vehicle crash or injury associated with this condition.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation will conduct a safety recall to replace the ABS electronic control unit on the affected vehicle population with a module with an integrated circuit change that prevents this condition.

Sincerely,

  
for Stephan J. Speth

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F05

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

## DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F05

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**Submission date: February 7, 2006**

### Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume (estimated)	Other
Dodge	Ram	2006	9/13/05-12/12/05	37,526	with four wheel ABS
Dodge	Dakota		9/13/05-12/9/05	1,139	
Mitsubishi	Raider		10/24/05-12/9/05	609	

**Estimated percentage containing defect:** unknown

### Description of defect:

The anti-lock brake system (ABS) electronic control unit (ECU) may cause a loss of electronic brake distribution and the rear brakes could 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:

TRW Automotive  
12025 Tech Center Drive  
Livonia, MI 48150  
(734) 855-2600

### The following chronology of principal events occurred between late November of 2005 and January of 2006 and led to the determination of a defect:

- On November 22, 2005, a 2006 model year Dodge Ram vehicle built at DaimlerChrysler Corporation's Saltillo (Mexico) Truck Assembly Plant was detected during vehicle audit with ABS and red brake warning lamp illumination.
- Saltillo, as well as the St. Louis (Missouri) North and Warren (Michigan) Truck assembly plants

## DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F05

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held all Dodge Ram vehicles equipped with ABS.

- It was found that ABS fault messages were being generated based on loss of part traceability and VIN data stored in the ABS ECU random access memory (RAM).
- Preliminary investigation showed that the RAM loss was initiated during key on and vehicle start cycles. The ignition voltage drops during the start cycle and was suspected to induce the memory loss. The Dodge Ram vehicles have their ABS ECU active during vehicle start.
- Investigation determined that the Dodge Dakota and Mitsubishi Raider vehicles utilize the same ABS ECU. However, these vehicles do not have their ABS ECU active during vehicle start so they were not initially included in the suspect population.
- Additional investigation in December of 2005 determined that the ABS ECU supplier had implemented an integrated circuit change into their production in early September of 2005.
- Although the investigation was still in progress, the ABS ECU supplier reverted to the original integrated circuit in their production process in early December of 2005.
- Engineering analysis in December of 2005 and into January of 2006 confirmed that the integrated circuit change could result in a loss of RAM. Investigation also determined that when the RAM is adversely affected the ECU can default to no electronic brake distribution.
- Further investigation determined that the Dodge Dakota and Mitsubishi Raider vehicles could also be susceptible to this condition.
- 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, vehicle evaluation showed that a loss of EBD could potentially result in rear brake lock-up during certain braking conditions.
- There are no known reports of accidents, injuries, or property damage associated with this condition. A review of available field data found 37 reports of ABS and/or red brake warning lamp illumination that may be related to this condition. All of these inputs were for vehicles with the integrated circuit implemented into production in September of 2005.
- This data was presented on January 31, 2006 to the Vehicle Regulations Committee who decided to conduct a safety recall to replace the ABS ECU on the affected vehicle population.

### **Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:**

DaimlerChrysler Corporation will replace the ABS electronic control unit (ECU) on the affected vehicle population with a new ECU containing an integrated circuit that prevents this condition. Due to the need for certain specific braking conditions to induce the wheel lock condition and the lack of any known accidents, injuries, or property damage, DaimlerChrysler Corporation has concluded that the three day dealer notification rule does not apply. DaimlerChrysler Corporation expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and to owners when a sufficient quantity of parts is available. DaimlerChrysler Corporation's scheduling information for implementing this recall is not available at this time.

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

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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.