

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

March 7, 2006

06V-067
3 Pages


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

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 2005 and 2006 model year Dodge Durango, Dodge Caravan and Grand Caravan, and Chrysler Town and Country vehicles. The front windshield wiper motor armature shaft may break under certain operating conditions, which could result in a loss of front windshield wiping capability.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation will conduct a safety recall to inspect the front windshield wiper assembly and replace the motor if necessary on all vehicles affected.

Sincerely,



Stephan J. Speth

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F10

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

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F10

Page 1

Submission date: March 7, 2006

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume (estimated)
Dodge	Durango	2005	03/27/05 - 06/12/05	25,465
		2006	09/27/05 - 11/24/05	17,346
Dodge/ Chrysler	Caravan, Grand Caravan/ Town & Country	2005	03/27/05 - 07/01/05	128,381
		2006	09/27/05 - 12/13/05	97,608

Estimated percentage containing defect: Unknown

Description of defect:

The front windshield wiper motor armature shaft may break under certain operating conditions, which could result in a loss of front windshield wiping capability.

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

Valeo Wiper Systems
3000 University Drive
Auburn Hills, Michigan 48326
(248) 340-3400

The following chronology of principal events occurred during January and February of 2006 and led to the determination of a defect:

- In early January of 2006, an increase in Dodge Durango, Dodge Caravan and Grand Caravan, and Chrysler Town & Country front windshield wiper motor returns was noted through internal warranty tracking.
- Analysis of returned parts during January and February of 2006 indicated that the true position of the wiper motor armature shaft molded thrust sleeve was out of specification. This could result in shaft misalignment with the motor center bearing and create a side load and ultimately lead to armature shaft fracture.
- Investigation determined that the returned motors exhibiting this condition were all built at Valeo's San Luis Potosi (SLP), Mexico facility.
- Analysis of Valeo processing records determined that two distinct time frames existed when parts may have been out of specification.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F10

Page 2

- During January and February of 2006, analysis of parts from warranty return, plant stock, service part stock and an employee lease vehicle survey confirmed that motors built outside these two time frames were all within specification and thus not susceptible to armature shaft fracture.
- Further investigation determined that an in-process variable data gauge had been implemented to detect armature shaft position at Valeo's SLP Mexico facility on November 22, 2005.
- All plant and service stock with motors built prior to this date was purged as a precautionary measure.
- It was also determined that the subject wiper motors are not tied to a specific vehicle at the time the motors are built. Statistical analysis of wiper motor build date compared to vehicle build date was used to establish a suspect vehicle inclusive date of manufacture range.
- DaimlerChrysler Corporation is aware of 65 reports of wiper motor fracture that may be related to this condition. The company is unaware of any accidents or injuries.
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on February 28, 2006 who decided to conduct a safety recall to repair the affected vehicles.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

DaimlerChrysler Corporation will inspect the bar coded labels on the front wiper motor to determine manufacturing location and build date. For those vehicles with wiper motors from the suspect motor build dates, the motor will be replaced. DaimlerChrysler Corporation expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and to owners when a sufficient quantity of parts becomes available. DaimlerChrysler Corporations' 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 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.