

# DAIMLERCHRYSLER

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NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

March 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

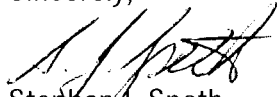
06V-072  
(13 Pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Attached is DaimlerChrysler Corporation's Noncompliance Information Report, complying with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, which contains details of a potential noncompliance in a small number of 2006 model year Jeep Liberty vehicles. An incorrect door latch reinforcement plate may have been installed and the right front door latch may not meet the requirements of FMVSS 206, Door Locks and Door Retention Components.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation has issued a safety recall to inspect the right front door latch assembly and replace the reinforcement plate on all affected vehicles.

Sincerely,

  
Stephan J. Speth

Enclosures: Noncompliance Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F11  
Dealer and Owner Notification letters for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F11

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

# NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F11

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**Submission date:** March 7, 2006

## Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume (estimated)
Jeep	Liberty	2006	02/7/2006 - 02/7/2006	27

**Estimated percentage containing defect:** 100%

## The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

Low                      High  
6W186119                  6W215756

(VIN last eight characters) - 6 = 2006 model year; W = Toledo North Assembly Plant, Toledo, Ohio; and last six digits = sequential number.

DaimlerChrysler Corporation cautions 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.

## Description of noncompliance:

An incorrect right front door latch reinforcement plate may have been installed and which may cause the secondary door latch to become inoperative. As a result, these vehicles may fail to conform to the requirements of FMVSS 206, Door Locks and Door Retention Components.

## The following chronology of principal events occurred in February of 2006 and led to the determination of a noncompliance:

- In early February of 2006, incorrect door latch reinforcement plates were inadvertently installed in a small number of 2006 model year Jeep Liberty right front door assemblies being manufactured at DaimlerChrysler Corporation's Sterling Stamping Plant (Sterling Heights, MI).

## **NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F 11**

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- The door assemblies were shipped to the Toledo (Ohio) North Assembly Plant and assembled into Jeep Liberty vehicles. It was subsequently determined that this configuration could result in improper secondary door latch function.
- All vehicles within the control of the Toledo North Assembly Plant were held and corrected, but a small number were determined to be beyond the control of the plant.
- DaimlerChrysler Corporation is unaware of any accidents or injuries attributable to this condition and believes that few, if any, of the small number of affected vehicles are beyond the control of dealers.
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on February 28, 2006 who decided to conduct a safety recall to inspect the latch assembly and replace the right front door latch reinforcement plate on all affected vehicles.

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

DaimlerChrysler Corporation will inspect the latch assembly and replace the right front door latch reinforcement plate on all affected vehicles. DaimlerChrysler Corporation has implemented national notification to dealers on March 7, 2006 and will notify owners the week of March 13, 2006.

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.

Dealer Service Instructions for:

# **Safety Recall F11**

## **Right Front Door Latch Reinforcement Plate**

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### **Models**

2006 (KJ) Jeep® Liberty

*NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles built on February 7, 2006 (MDH 020708 through 020713).*

*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 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**

An incorrect door latch reinforcement plate may have been installed into the right front door on 27 of the above vehicles. This may cause the secondary door latch to become inoperative. An inoperative secondary door latch increases the possibility of a door becoming forced open and an unbelted passenger being ejected during certain crash conditions. As a result, these vehicles fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 206 – Door Locks and Door Retention Components.

### **Repair**

The right front door latch reinforcement plate must be inspected and replaced if necessary.

**Parts Information**

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>CBA0F110</b>	<b>Plate, Right Front Door Latch Reinforcement</b>

**Each dealer** to whom vehicles in the recall were invoiced will receive enough Door Latch Reinforcement Plate Packages to service 100% of those vehicles.

**Service Procedure**

**A. Door Latch Reinforcement Plate Inspection**

Open the right front (passenger door) and inspect the latch screw head locations on the door frame and check the secondary latch operation.

- If the screw heads are within the clearance holes (Figure 1) and the primary and secondary latch operates properly, no further action is required.
- If the screw heads are not within the clearance holes (Figure 1) and/or the secondary latch does not engage, replace the door latch reinforcement plate. Continue with **Section B. Door Latch Reinforcement Plate Replacement**.

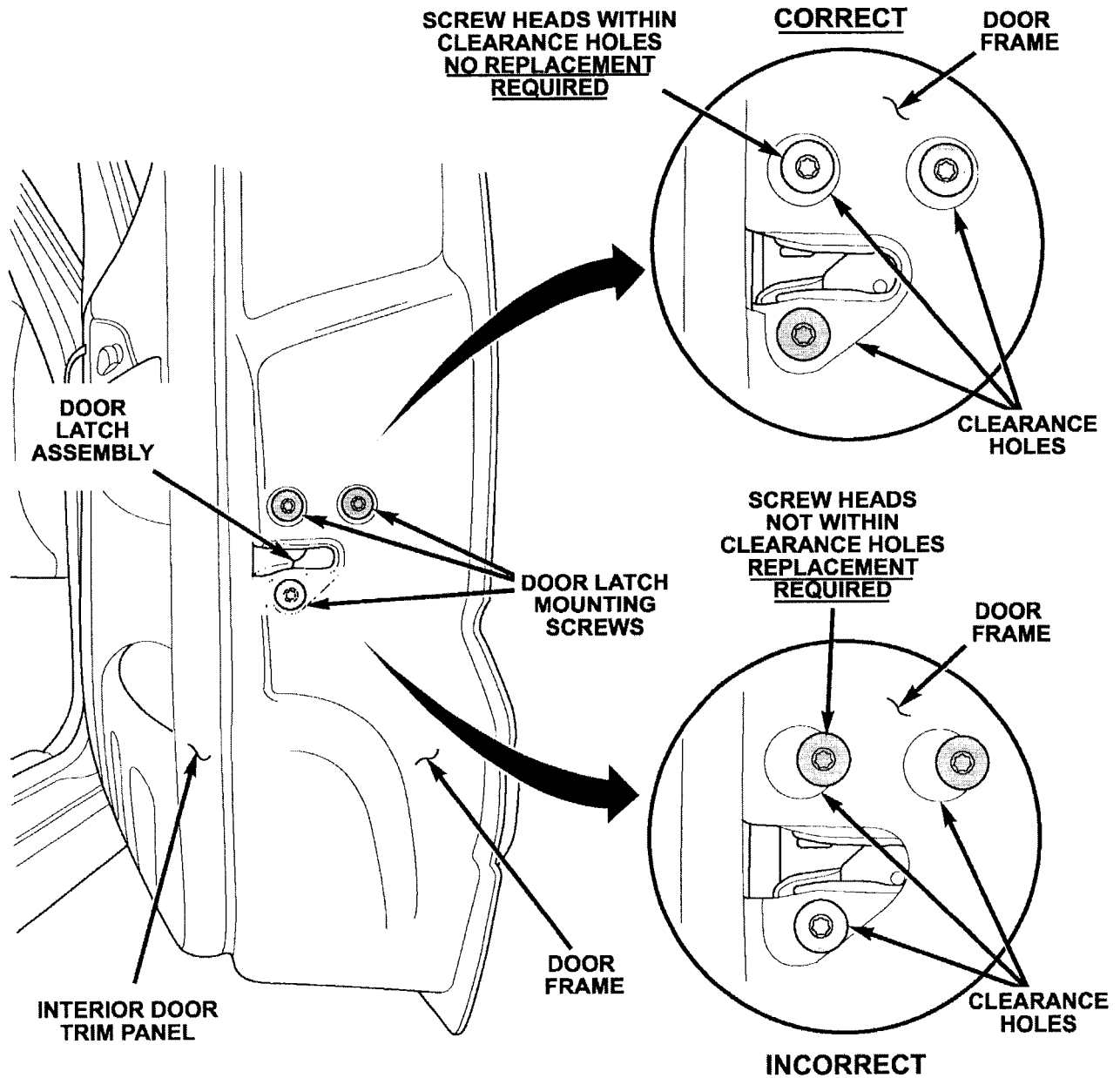


Figure 1 – Right Front Door

**Service Procedure (Continued)****B. Door Latch Reinforcement Plate Replacement**

**NOTE:** Only front passenger doors with screw heads that are not within the clearance holes and/or an inoperative secondary latch, as determined by the inspection in Section A, require reinforcement plate replacement.

**NOTE:** The door window must be in the full up position before performing this repair procedure.

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 the right front door and remove the interior door trim panel.
3. Remove the right front door speaker.
4. Carefully remove the door water shield.
5. Remove the lock knob rod from the door latch assembly.
6. Remove the two door glass run retaining bolts (Figure 2).
7. Using a plastic tie strap, temporarily tie strap the glass run forward to gain access to the latch assembly.
8. Remove the three latch retaining screws (Figure 2).
9. Disconnect the outside door handle to door latch rod and remove the latch assembly.

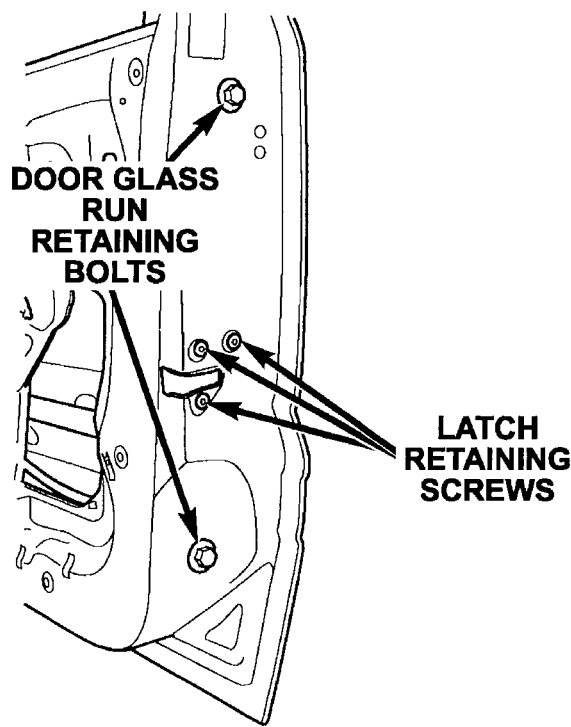


Figure 2

**Service Procedure (Continued)**

- 10. Disconnect the door latch rod from the outside door handle.
- 11. Using a center punch, carefully center punch each of the 10 spot welds that hold the door latch reinforcement plate to the door frame (Figure 3).
- 12. Using a spot weld drill bit (Snap-on YA2550-2 or equivalent) or a sharp twist drill bit, drill out the spot welds that hold the reinforcement plate to the door frame (Figure 4).

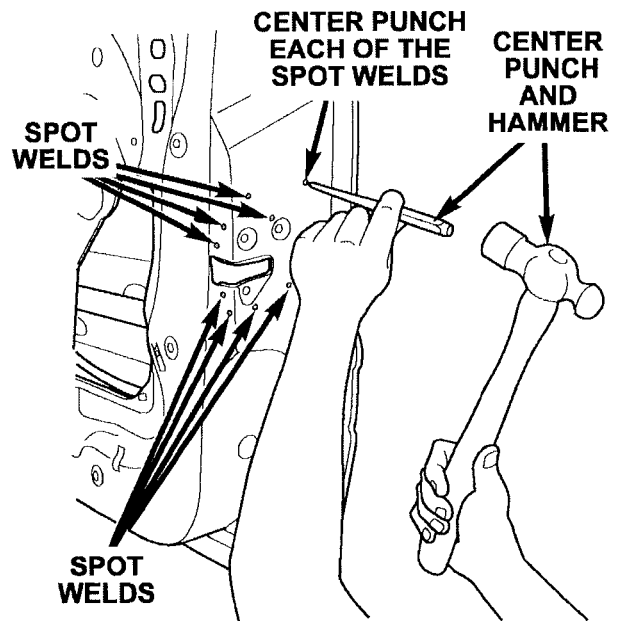


Figure 3

- 13. Remove and discard the original latch reinforcement plate.
- 14. Remove any burrs in the spot weld holes on the door frame.
- 15. Using a small grinding wheel, clean all paint and primer from around each spot weld hole on the door frame.

**CAUTION: Failure to clean the weld area around the holes may cause difficulties during the welding process.**

- 16. Place the latch reinforcement plate into position and mark the location of each spot weld location.
- 17. Remove the reinforcement plate from the door. Using a small grinding wheel grind the areas marked so that the protective coating is removed from the latch reinforcement plate.

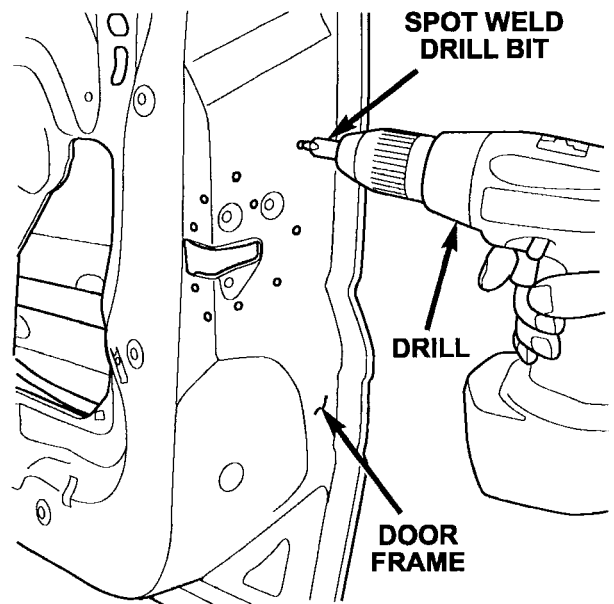


Figure 4



### Service Procedure (Continued)

18. Using locking pliers, clamp the new latch reinforcement plate into position on the door frame (Figure 5).

**NOTE: The latch reinforcement plate must be tight against the door frame before welding.**

19. Using a MIG welder, weld the holes closed (Figure 6). Refer to the “Welding Specifications” chart at the end of this procedure for welder setup specifications..

**CAUTION: Allow the panel to cool after each hole is welded to prevent the metal from warping.**

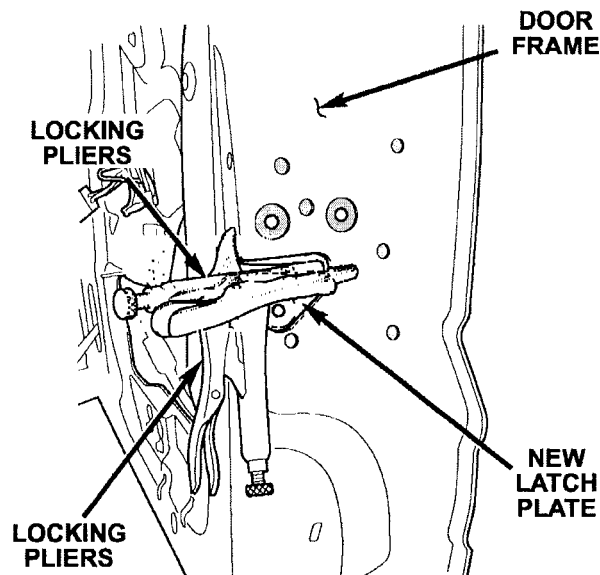


Figure 5

20. Using a small grinding wheel, grind the welds flat.
21. Using rust resistant primer, flood the inside of the door area around the latch reinforcement plate with primer. Apply a heavy enough coat so that the primer runs between the reinforcement and the door frame.

22. Paint the area of the door frame using methods approved by DaimlerChrysler and the paint manufacturer.

**NOTE: Both the inside and outside of the door frame and latch reinforcement plate must be painted before reassembling the door.**

23. Install the door latch rod onto the outside door handle.
24. Place the door latch assembly into position and connect the outside door handle rod to door latch assembly.

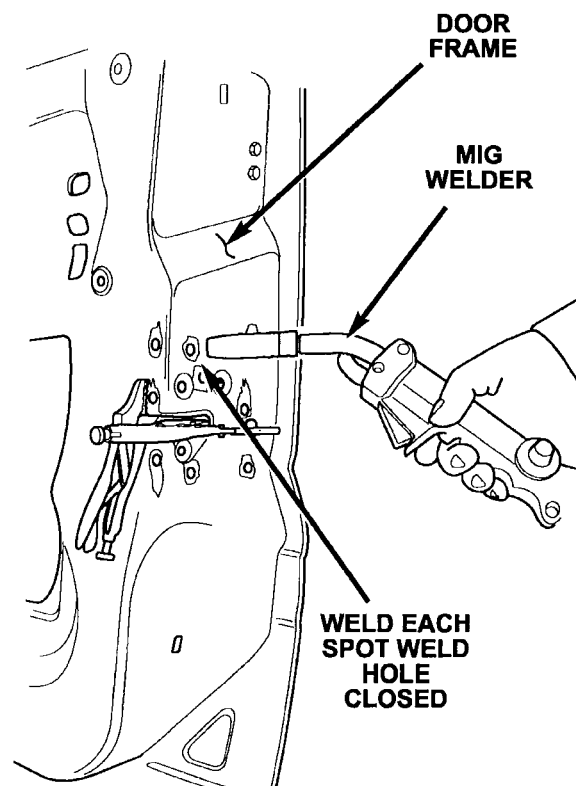


Figure 6

**Service Procedure (Continued)**

25. Install the three screws that hold the door latch to the latch reinforcement plate
26. Remove and discard the tie strap that held the glass run forward to gain access to the door latch assembly.
27. Install the two bolts that hold the door glass run in position (Figure 2). Tighten the bolts to 80 in. lbs (9 N·m).
28. Install the lock knob rod from the door latch assembly.
29. Carefully install the door water shield.
30. Install the right front door speaker.
31. Install the interior door panel.
32. Connect the negative battery cable.
33. Verify door operation and adjust door striker if required.

<b>WELDING SPECIFICATIONS</b>	
<b>Electrode Type</b>	E70S-6 (Do Not Substitute)
<b>Electrode Size Inches</b>	.035
<b>Electrode Stick Out</b>	3/8" - 1/2"
<b>Tip to Work Distance</b>	1/2" - 5/8"
<b>Polarity</b>	Electrode + Work Piece -
<b>Shielding Gas</b>	25% CO <sub>2</sub> / 75% Argon
<b>Wire Feed Speed (inches per min.)</b>	60 - 70
<b>Approx. Amperage Setting</b>	60 - 80
<b>Voltage</b>	15 - 16

## 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 the following labor operation numbers and time allowances:

	<b>Labor Operation Number</b>	<b>Time Allowance</b>
Inspect right front door latch plate	23-F1-11-81	0.2 hours
Inspect and replace right front door latch plate	23-F1-11-82	1.8 hours

### **Related Operation**

Prepare area for paint and paint inner and outer door frame in the latch reinforcement area	23-F1-11-50	1.3 hours
Material Allowance		\$24.63

Add the cost of the recall parts plus applicable dealer allowance to your claim. In addition, enter "MATL" in the Part Number section of your claim with the applicable Material Allowance where appropriate.

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



**SAFETY RECALL F11 –RIGHT FRONT DOOR LATCH REINFORCEMENT PLATE**

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 some **2006 model year Jeep® Liberty vehicles** fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 206 – Door Locks and Door Retention Components.

***The problem is...*** An incorrect door latch reinforcement plate may have been installed into the right front door of your vehicle (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx). As a result, the secondary door latch may be inoperative. This increases the possibility of a door becoming forced open and an unbelted passenger being ejected during certain crash conditions.

***What your dealer will do...*** DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will inspect the right front door latch reinforcement plate and replace it if necessary. If the reinforcement plate needs to be replaced, the work will take about 3½ 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. Ask the dealer to hold the parts for your vehicle or to order them before your 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 F11 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 noncompliance 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 F11

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