

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

RECEIVED
MAY -3 A 7 26
OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION
May 2, 2006

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

06V-147
(3 pages)

Mr. Daniel Smith

Associate Administrator of Enforcement, Office of Vehicle Safety

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

400 Seventh Street, S.W.

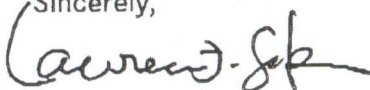
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Smith:

Attached is DaimlerChrysler Corporation's (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 Jeep Wrangler vehicles. The hydraulic clutch master cylinder linkage rod may break on vehicles equipped with the 6-speed manual transmission. This may not allow disengagement of the clutch when the pedal is depressed, which could result in unintentional vehicle movement, increased stopping distance and engine stalling.

DCC will conduct a voluntary safety recall to replace the clutch master cylinder linkage rod on the affected vehicle population.

Sincerely,


for Stephan J. Speth

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F22

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

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F22

Page 1

Submission date: May 2, 2006

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume (estimated)	Other
Jeep	Wrangler	2006	11/03/2005 through 02/13/2006	6,876	With 6-speed manual transmission

Estimated percentage containing defect: unknown

Description of defect:

The hydraulic clutch master cylinder linkage rod may break. This may not allow disengagement of the clutch when the pedal is depressed, which could result in unintentional vehicle movement, increased stopping distance and engine stalling.

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

FTE Automotive, Inc.
4000 Pinnacle Ct.
Auburn Hills, MI 48326
(248) 377-6999

The following chronology of principal events occurred between December of 2005 and April of 2006 and led to the determination of a defect:

- In December of 2005, an increase in field input for the 2006 model year Jeep Wrangler clutch system was noted.
- Field return parts were retrieved in January of 2006 and it was observed that the linkage rod connecting the clutch pedal with the clutch master cylinder had broken.
- Investigation determined that in early November of 2005 a revised clutch master cylinder input rod had been implemented for the Jeep Wrangler. This revised rod is utilized in Jeep Liberty applications without issue.
- As a precautionary measure the previous version of Jeep Wrangler linkage rod was put back into production in early February of 2006 while the investigation continued.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F22

Page 2

- A review of data indicated that all input alleging broken linkage rods was from Jeep Wrangler vehicles built between November of 2005 and February of 2006 with the revised rod.
- Investigation from February through April of 2006 determined that testing to validate the revised linkage rod in the Jeep Wrangler application did not accurately reflect in-vehicle operation. In the Jeep Liberty application the clutch pedal stop is provided by the floor pan and the linkage rod does not see significant loading during clutch pedal actuation. In the Jeep Wrangler application the clutch pedal stop is provided by the linkage rod. The previous version of linkage rod had additional material that provided sufficient structure during all in-vehicle operation.
- On April 20, 2006 NHTSA opened Preliminary Evaluation PE06-015 based on 3 customer allegations of broken clutch linkage rods.
- A review of 2006 model year Jeep Wrangler input found 17 customer complaints that may be related to this condition. All inputs were from vehicles built within the suspect period. There are no reports of accident, injury or property damage.
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on April 25, 2006 who decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall and repair the affected vehicles.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

DaimlerChrysler Corporation (DCC) will replace the clutch master cylinder linkage rod on the affected vehicle population. Due to the lack of any known accidents, injuries, or property damage, DCC has concluded that the three day dealer notification rule does not apply. DCC expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and to owners when a sufficient quantity of parts is available. DCC's scheduling information for implementing this recall is not available at this time.

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.