

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

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DEFECT INVESTIGATION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

June 6, 2006

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

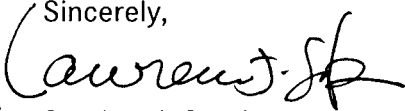
06V-199
(3 pages)

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 2000 and 2002 model year Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles equipped with 4.0L engines. The plastic blades of the electric motor driven cooling fan may separate and penetrate the shroud. If this occurs while the hood is open, a person in the vicinity of the engine could be struck by the blade and injured.

DCC will conduct a safety recall to replace the cooling fan modules on all vehicles affected.

Sincerely,


for Stephan J. Speth

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F25

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

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER CORPORATION RECALL F25

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Submission date: June 6, 2006

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume (estimated)	Other
Jeep	Grand Cherokee	2000	01/31/00 - 05/16/00	64,904	4.0L Engine
		2002	02/04/02 - 06/17/02	66,537	

Estimated percentage containing defect: Unknown

Description of defect:

The plastic blades of the electric motor driven cooling fan may separate and penetrate the shroud. If this occurs while the hood is open, a person in the vicinity of the engine could be struck by the blade and injured.

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

Robert Bosch Corporation
38000 Hills Tech Drive
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331
(248) 876-2966

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

- On July 19, 2005 the agency opened preliminary evaluation PE05-039 alleging blade separation from the 4.0L engine electric motor driven fan in 2002 model year Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles.
- DCC's response noted 117 customer complaints that appeared potentially related to this condition. All complaints were from vehicles built within the months of February - April of 2002 and the only stated consequence was engine overheating due to radiator damage. There were no reports of injury.
- As a precautionary measure, part manufacturing and quality control testing was modified for each part produced as of July of 2005 while the investigation continued.
- The investigation was upgraded to engineering analysis EA05-020 on December 21, 2005.
- The number of customer complaints that appeared potentially related to this condition increased by 12, all also built within the early months of 2002. The stated consequence and reports of injury remained unchanged.
- A search of input data for all other products and model years for which the subject fan was utilized also found 34 customer complaints for 2000 model year Jeep Grand Cherokee 4.0L

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vehicles built in the early months of 2000 that appeared similar. There were no other periods of time or other vehicles with any significant input.

- Analysis of field samples acquired through part retention found the material to be within all specifications. Analysis of returned parts exhibiting blade separation showed the origin of the fractures was brittle in nature. Poor bonding between the resin material and the glass fibers was observed, which may be attributed to the injection molding process. Review of processing history was limited by the lack of available documentation as a result of record retention policies.
- Survey parts from vehicles built within suspect time frames as identified by customer complaints also demonstrated a decrease in durability performance versus control samples.
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on May 30, 2006 who decided to conduct a safety recall to replace the electric cooling fan modules on all vehicles built within the suspect timeframes.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

DCC will replace the electric cooling fan modules on all vehicles affected. Due to the need for certain circumstances to induce the condition while a vehicle is in operation and the lack of any known accidents or injuries, 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.