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DAIMLERCHRYSLER

06V-431
(3 pages)

RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

November 8, 2006

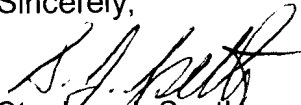
Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator of Enforcement, Office of Vehicle Safety
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

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 affects a small number of 2007 model year Chrysler Sebring vehicles. The hood latch striker may break and allow the hood to open while driving.

DCC will issue a voluntary safety recall to replace the hood latch striker on the affected vehicles.

Sincerely,



Stephan J. Speth

Enclosures: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F45

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

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER CORPORATION (3 pages)2006 NOV 15
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RECALL MANAGEMENT DIVISION**Submission date:** November 8, 2006**Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:**

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume
Chrysler	Sebring	2007	07/01/06 – 10/18/06	2,258 (estimated)

Estimated percentage containing defect: 40%**The name, address and telephone number of the supplier who manufactured the subject components:**

Mobis Parts Detroit LLC
23255 Commerce Drive
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
248-426-5577

Description of Defect:

The hood latch striker may break and allow the hood to open while driving. This could cause a crash without warning.

The following chronology of principal events occurred in October of 2006 and led to the determination of a defect:

- A hood latch striker fractured at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Assembly Plant (SHAP) during the Chrysler Sebring hood alignment process and a yard hold was initiated on October 5, 2006.
- DCC Materials Engineering received hood latch strikers from SHAP for evaluation. Of 30 strikers tested via fluorescent magnetic particle inspection, 12 exhibited cracks (40%). Cracks were observed in each of the four 90 degree bend locations, with some strikers exhibiting a single crack at a single bend and others exhibiting multiple cracks at multiple bends.
- Investigation determined that the supplier changed the material from the specified MS-434 (SAE 1045) steel, which was utilized throughout the pre-production vehicle builds, to an unauthorized grade of steel similar to SAE 92B30, containing a material chemistry and properties deemed unacceptable by DCC Engineering for this

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application.

- Certified hood latch strikers produced from the specified MS-434 (SAE 1045) steel arrived at SHAP and a vehicles contained in the yard hold were reworked.
- Investigation determined that the suspect striker is new for the 2007 model year and only utilized on the Chrysler Sebring.
- DCC is unaware of any reports of hood fly-up, accidents or injuries attributable to this condition.
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on October 31, 2006 who decided to conduct a safety recall to replace the hood latch striker on the affected vehicles.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

DCC will replace the hood latch striker with a part that is certified with the approved material and process. DCC plans to implement national notification to dealers and owners in November of 2006.

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.