

# DAIMLERCHRYSLER

DEC 29 10 13 AM '06

December 22, 2006

DaimlerChrysler Corporation  
Stephan J. Speth  
Director  
Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

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-493  
(3 pages)

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 2007 model year Chrysler Sebring and 300, Dodge Caliber, Charger, Nitro, and Magnum, and Jeep Compass, Commander, Grand Cherokee, Liberty and Wrangler vehicles. A small number of vehicles may experience anti-lock brake system (ABS) and red brake warning lamp illumination accompanied by a loss of electronic brake distribution (EBD), traction control, ABS and speedometer function. This could cause the rear brakes to lock up during certain braking conditions. There have been no reports of vehicle crash, injury or property damage associated with this condition.

DCC will conduct a safety recall to reprogram the ABS control module on the affected vehicle population with new software that prevents this condition.

Sincerely,



Stephan J. Speth

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall F50

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

# DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F50

Page 1

**Submission date:** December 22, 2006

## Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Vehicle Volume (estimated)
Chrysler	Sebring	2007	09/07/06 - 12/13/06	16,245
Chrysler / Dodge	300 / Charger / Magnum			3,126
Dodge	Caliber			710
	Nitro			4,154
Jeep	Commander			4,808
	Compass			8,907
	Grand Cherokee			11,029
	Liberty			9,275
	Wrangler			4,115

**Estimated percentage containing defect:** < 1%

## Description of defect:

The anti-lock brake system (ABS) control module software may cause the rear brakes to lock up during certain braking conditions. This could result in a loss of vehicle control and cause a crash without warning.

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

Continental Teves  
1103 Jamestown Road  
Morganton, NC 28655  
828-584-5518

## The following chronology of principal events occurred during November and December of 2006 and led to the determination of a defect:

- In November of 2006, ABS control module fault messages were detected a routine yard audit of 2007 model year product at DCC's Belvidere Assembly Plant.
- Affected vehicles were equipped with the Continental Teves Mark 25E ABS electronic

## DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER RECALL F50

Page 2

- control unit (ECU) and electronic stability program (ESP).
- On November 17, 2006, a yard hold was implemented for all corporate vehicles equipped with the Mark 25E ECU and ABS/ESP.
- Investigation determined the Mark 25E ECU flash loader software was incompatible with the full manufactured specification range of a processing chip used in the ECU. If this incompatibility were to occur, a loss of communication with the ECU would take place, followed by warning lamp illumination and a loss of electronic brake distribution, traction control, ABS and speedometer function.
- Analysis of processing chip data showed a shift in data beginning in September of 2006 that could result in this incompatibility for a small number of ECUs.
- Revised ECU flash loader software was developed and validated to eliminate the potential for this condition in late November of 2006. A reprogramming of all held vehicles was initiated.
- In early December of 2006, a 2007 model year Chrysler Sebring without ESP at DCC's Sterling Heights Assembly Plant was observed with similar warning lamp illumination and stored faults for loss of communication. The ECU was returned to Continental Teves for evaluation.
- Continental Teves duplicated the loss of communication failure mode in cold chamber testing and confirmed that Sebring vehicles equipped with ABS were also suspect for incompatibility with the full manufactured specification range of the processing chip.
- On December 12, 2006, a yard hold was implemented for 2007 Sebring ABS equipped vehicles with Continental Teves Mark 25E ECU.
- Revised ECU flash loader software was developed and validated to eliminate the potential for this condition and a reprogramming of all held vehicles was initiated.
- There are no reports of accidents, injuries or property damage related to this condition.
- This data was presented on December 19, 2006 to the Vehicle Regulations Committee who decided to conduct a safety recall to reprogram the ABS control module software on the affected vehicle population.

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

DCC will reprogram the ABS electronic control unit on the affected vehicle population with new software that prevents this condition. Due to the need for certain specific braking conditions to induce the wheel lock condition and 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 in February of 2007.

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.