

# DAIMLERCHRYSLER

2006 JUL 11 P 3: 39  
DEFECT INVESTIGATION

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

July 7, 2006

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

Reference: NHTSA Identification Number 06V-238

Enclosed are representative copies of communications relating to the 2006 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. DaimlerChrysler expects to notify dealers during the week of July 10, 2006 and to begin owner notification during the week of July 17, 2006. The exact number of manufactured vehicles in the recall is 235.

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
65913051	65929937

(VIN last eight characters) - 6 = 2006 model year; 5 = Duesseldorf Assembly Plant, Germany; and the last six digits = sequential number.

**We caution 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.**

Note that the inclusive dates of manufacture at the Duesseldorf assembly plant are January 28, 2006 through March 8, 2006.

This completes DaimlerChrysler's package of information for this recall as required by the Defects Report Regulation.

Sincerely,



Stephan J. Speth, Director  
Vehicle Compliance and Safety Affairs

Enclosure: Recall F34

cc: K.C. DeMeter

Dealer Service Instructions for:

## **Safety Recall F34**

### **Brake Fluid Contamination**

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#### **Models**

2006 (VA) Dodge Sprinter 2500/3500

2006 (VA) Freightliner Sprinter 2500/3500

*NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles built from January 28, 2006 through March 8, 2006 (MDH 012801 through 030801).*

**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**

The brake fluid on about 200 of the above vehicles may be contaminated with water. Water in the hydraulic brake system can lower the brake fluid boiling point. Under certain braking conditions, this could increase in the vehicle's stopping distance and cause a crash without warning.

#### **Repair**

The hydraulic brake system fluid must be thoroughly flushed five times to remove the contaminated brake fluid.

**Parts Information**

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
04549625AC	Fluid, Brake (DOT 4) (MSQ: 24 bottles)

**NOTE:** Each repair requires 20 bottles of fluid to completely flush the hydraulic brake system.

**Special Tools**

The following existing special tools are required to perform this repair:

- NPN DRBIII Scan Tool
- CH9087 DRBIII Sprinter Software Card
- 9043 DRBIII Multiplexer Cable/Box

## Service Procedure

1. Open the hood and connect a battery charger to the battery.
2. Remove the brake master cylinder reservoir cap and filter (Figure 1).
3. Using a suction gun, remove the old brake fluid from the brake master cylinder reservoir.

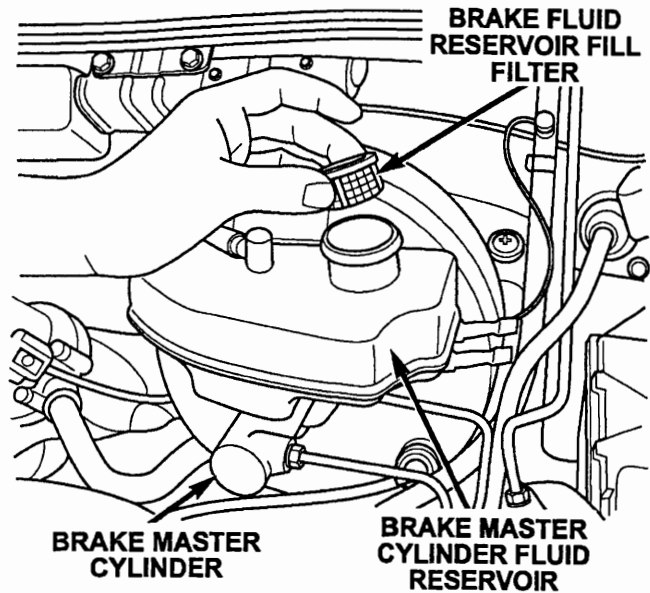


Figure 1

4. Fill the master cylinder reservoir with new Mopar DOT 4 brake fluid (P/N 04549625AC).
5. Fill a pressure bleeder with Mopar DOT 4 brake fluid (P/N 04549625AC).

**CAUTION: DO NOT use any other types of brake fluid in the pressure bleeder. Use only Mopar (P/N 04549625AC) DOT 4 brake fluid. Other brands of DOT 4 fluid will not meet the Mopar specifications.**

6. Connect the pressure bleeder to the master cylinder reservoir (Figure 2).
7. Turn on the pressure bleeder and set the pressure level to 30 psi (2 bar).

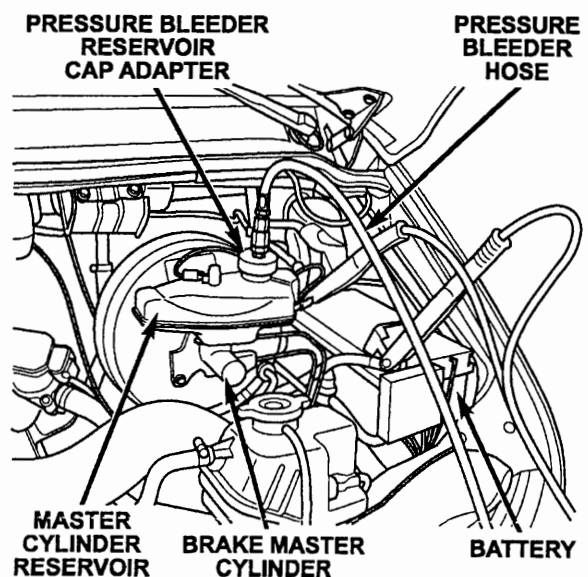


Figure 2

**Service Procedure (Continued)**

8. Connect and setup the DRBIII using the following procedure:
  - a. Connect the Multiplexer (9043) to the data link connector located next to the left kick panel.
  - b. Insert the Sprinter Data Card (CH9087) into the DRBIII data card port.
  - c. Connect the DRBIII to the Multiplexer.
  - d. Place the ignition key in the “**RUN**” position.
  - e. Allow the DRBIII to boot up and then press the “**YES**” key to get to the “Main Menu.”
  - f. Select “**DRB Standalone**” from the main menu and then press the “**Enter**” button.
  - g. Select “**1998 – 2006 Diagnostics**” and then press the “**Enter**” button.
  - h. Select “**2002 – 2006 Sprinter**” and then press the “**Enter**” button.
  - i. Read warnings on the DRBIII screen and then press the “**Enter**” button.
  - j. Select “**System Select**” and then press the “**Enter**” button.
  - k. The DRBIII screen will show the ESP/ABS Module display. Press the “**Enter**” button.
  - l. Select “**Miscellaneous Functions**” and then press the “**Enter**” button.
  - m. Select “**Exceptional Bleeding**” and then press the “**Enter**” button.
  - n. Follow the screen prompts to bleed each wheel.

**NOTE: Bleed the wheels in the order shown on the DRBIII screen.**

**Service Procedure (Continued)**

9. Position the DRBIII so that it can be accessed while the vehicle is raised on the hoist.
10. With an assistant in the driver's seat, raise the vehicle on an appropriate hoist.
11. **For 3500 series vehicles**, temporarily install a plastic tie strap so that the load sensing proportioning valve arm is held against the proportioning valve (Figure 4).
12. Connect a bleed bottle to the right rear brake caliper bleeder screw (Figure 3).

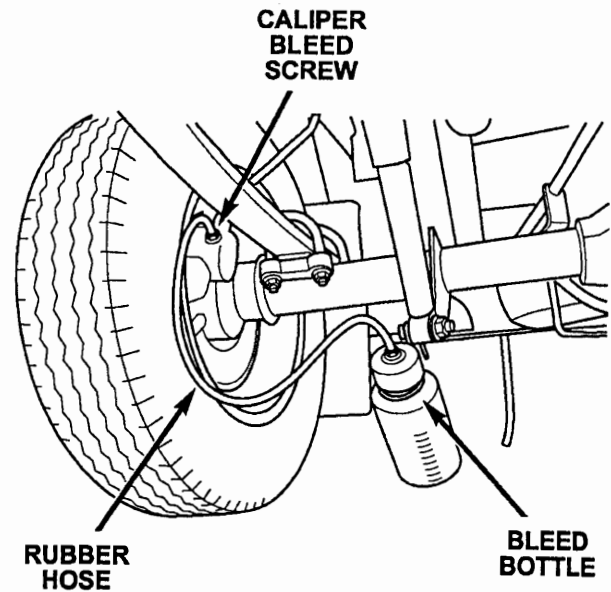


Figure 3 – Right Rear Wheel Shown

13. Using the DRBIII, activate the wheel being bled and follow the screen prompts on the DRBIII.

**NOTE: The assistant in the vehicle must pump the brakes during the bleed procedure.**

**NOTE: Each time a caliper is bled, approximately 13.5 oz. (400 ml) of brake fluid should flush through the system.**

14. Repeat Steps 12 and 13 on the other three brake calipers in the order listed on the DRBIII screen.
15. Repeat Steps 12 through 14 four (4) additional times.
16. **For 3500 series vehicles**, remove and discard the plastic tie strap from the load sensing proportioning valve (Figure 4).

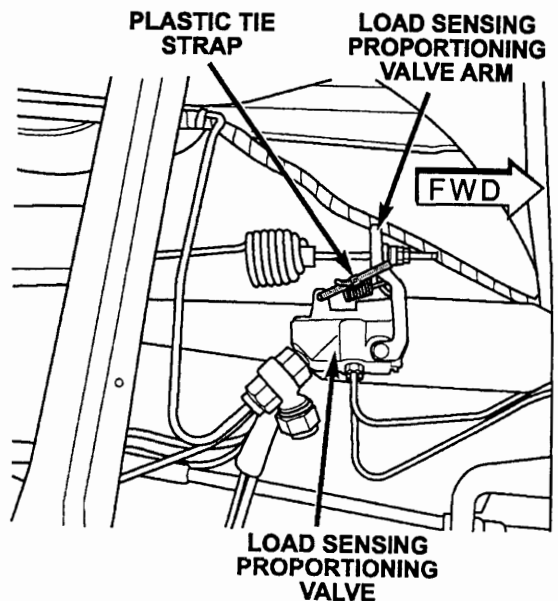


Figure 4 – Top View

**Service Procedure (Continued)**

17. Lower the vehicle from the hoist.
18. Turn the ignition key to the “OFF” position.
19. Disconnect the pressure bleeder from the master cylinder reservoir.
20. Disconnect the battery charger from the vehicle.
21. Install the master cylinder reservoir fill filter.
22. Fill the master cylinder with Mopar DOT 4 brake fluid (P/N 04549625AC) and install the brake master cylinder reservoir cap.
23. Verify proper brake operation.

**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 number and time allowance:

	<b>Labor Operation Number</b>	<b>Time Allowance</b>
Flush hydraulic brake system five times per wheel	05-F3-41-82	2.3 hours

Add the cost of the brake fluid plus applicable dealer allowance to your claim.

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

# DAIMLERCHRYSLER

*Buckle up  
for Safety!*

## **SAFETY RECALL F34 – BRAKE FLUID CONTAMINATION**

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 a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in some **2006 model year Dodge and Freightliner Sprinter 2500/3500 vehicles.**

***The problem is...***     **The brake fluid in your vehicle (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) may be contaminated with water. Water in the hydraulic brake system can lower the brake fluid boiling point. Under certain braking conditions, this could increase the vehicle's stopping distance and cause a crash without warning.**

***What your dealer will do...***     **DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will flush the hydraulic braking system to remove the contaminated fluid. The work will take about 2½ 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 brake fluid for your vehicle or to order it 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 F34 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 defect 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 F34

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