

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

SEP 12 2006
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

September 1, 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-288

Enclosed are representative copies of communications relating to the 2002 through 2006 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. DaimlerChrysler expects to notify dealers during the week of September 4, 2006 and to begin owner notification during the week of September 11, 2006. The exact number of vehicles in the recall is 773,187 (2002 - The Polk Company currently registered and 2003 through 2006 manufactured).

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

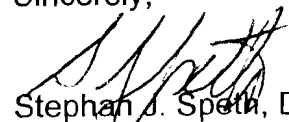
<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
2W100141	2W368517
3W500001	3W735644
4W100001	4W331193
5W500001	5W727679
6W100001	6W244002

(VIN last eight characters) - 2 = 2002 model year; 3 = 2003 model year; 4 = 2004 model year; 5 = 2005 model year; 6 = 2006 model year; W = Toledo North Assembly Plant, Toledo, Ohio; 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 some vehicles with a VIN within the range are not affected by the recall.

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: Dealer and Owner Letter for Recall F23

cc: K.C. DeMeter

A Company of the DaimlerChrysler Group

DaimlerChrysler Corporation
800 Chrysler Drive CIMS 482 00-91
Auburn Hills MI USA 48326-2757

September 2006

Dealer Service Instructions for:

Safety Recall No. F23 – Lower Ball Joints

Effective immediately, this recall (Safety Recall F23) cancels and supersedes Safety Recall C36 – Lower Ball Joints. Please remove and discard from your files all copies of Safety Recall C36 (dated December 2003). All vehicles involved in Recall C36, whether completed or not, must have this recall performed.

Models

2002-2006 (KJ) Jeep® Liberty

NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles built through March 15, 2006 (MDH 031510).

IMPORTANT: Some of the involved vehicles may be in dealer new vehicle inventory. **Federal law requires you to stop sale and 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

Water may enter into the front suspension lower ball joints on about 820,000 of the above vehicles. This can cause the ball joint to corrode and separate. Ball joint separation can result in a loss of steering control and could cause a crash without prior warning.

Repair

Both front suspension lower ball joints must be replaced.

NOTE: Ball joint heat shields must also be installed on 2002 and 2003 model year vehicles that did not have Safety Recall C36 performed.

IMPORTANT: Owners involved in this recall will be notified in phases by model year (oldest-to-newest) based on parts availability.

Parts Information

Front Suspension Lower Ball Joint Package

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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CBXEF230	Front Suspension Lower Ball Joint Package
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Each package contains the following components:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	Front Suspension Lower Ball Joint
6	Hex Flange Lock Nut

Each dealer to whom vehicles in the recall were assigned will receive enough Front Suspension Ball Joint Packages to service about 5% of those vehicles.

Front Suspension Lower Ball Joint Heat Shield Package

***NOTE:** This package is only required on 2002 and 2003 model year vehicles that did not have Safety Recall C36 performed. Very few vehicles are expected to require this package.*

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
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CBLFC362	Front Suspension Lower Ball Joint Heat Shield Package
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Each package contains the following components:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	Ball Joint Boot Heat Shield

Special Tools

The following existing special tools are required to perform this service procedure:

- C-4212F – Press, Ball Joint
- C-3894A – Remover, Tie Rod End
- C-4150A – Separator, Ball Joint
- 8859-1* – Remover, Driver
- 8859-2* – Remover, Receiver
- 8859-3* – Installer, Driver
- 6761 – Installer, Receiver

* Included in tool kit #8710 or #8696 depending on the vehicle brands sold by your dealer.

Service Procedure

1. Raise the vehicle on a hoist and remove both front wheel and tire assemblies.
2. Remove and discard the tie rod nut.
3. Separate the tie rod end from the steering knuckle using special tool C-3894A (Figure 1).

CAUTION: Do not use a “pickle fork” type tool to separate the tie rod end from the steering knuckle. Tie rod end boot damage may occur.

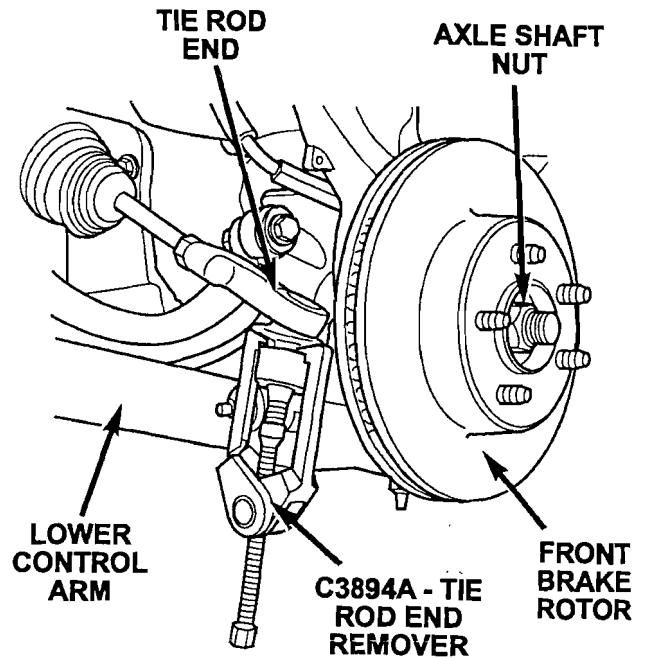


Figure 1

4. Remove the brake caliper adapter bolts and then remove the adapter and brake caliper as an assembly (Figure 2).

CAUTION: Never allow the disc brake caliper and adapter to hang from the brake hose. Damage to the brake hose will result. Provide a suitable support to hang the caliper assembly securely.

5. Place a mark on one of the wheel studs and rotor to index the rotor to the hub.
6. Remove and discard the brake rotor retaining clips and then slide the brake rotor off of the axle hub.
7. **For vehicles with ABS,** remove the wheel speed sensor.
8. **For four wheel drive vehicles,** remove the axle shaft nut (Figure 1).
9. Remove and discard the lower ball joint nut (Figure 2).

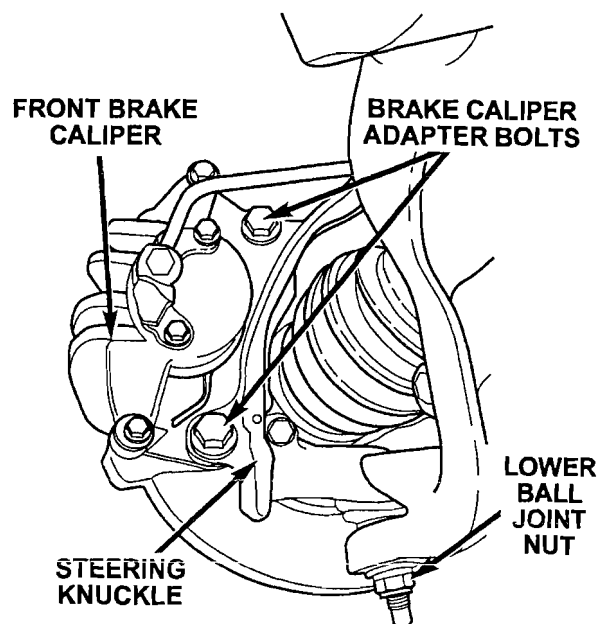


Figure 2

Service Procedure (Continued)

10. Separate the lower ball joint from the lower control arm using special tool C-4150A (Figure 3).

11. Remove and discard the upper ball joint nut.

CAUTION: Use care so that the upper ball joint boot is not damaged.

12. Separate the upper ball joint from the knuckle using tool C-4150A (Figure 4).

CAUTION: Do not use a “pickle fork” type tool to separate the upper ball joint from the steering knuckle. Upper ball joint boot damage may occur.

13. Carefully remove the steering knuckle from the vehicle.

14. **For vehicles with four wheel drive,** move the axle shaft to the side and support the axle shaft.

15. Secure the steering knuckle in a vise.

CAUTION: Do not over tighten the vise, steering knuckle damage could occur.

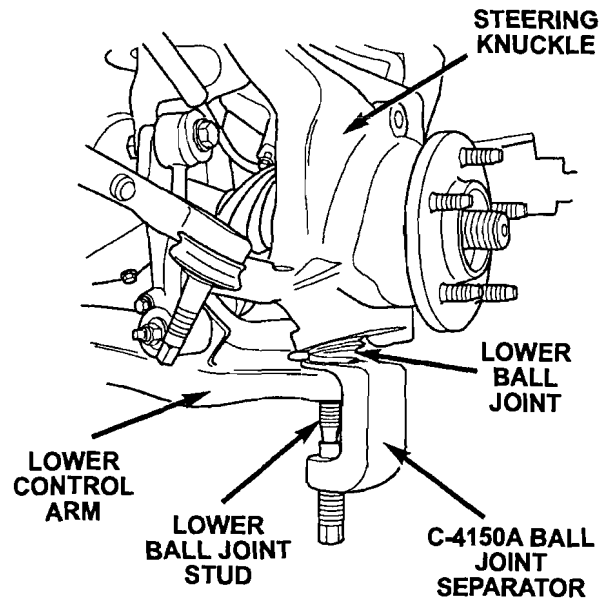


Figure 3

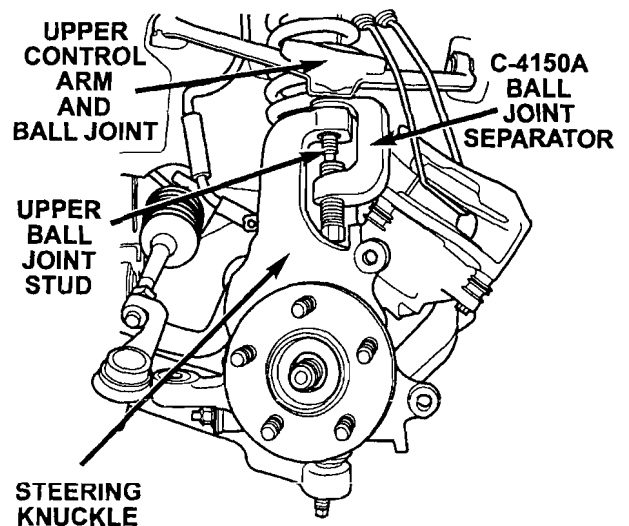


Figure 4

Service Procedure (Continued)

- Remove and discard the lower ball joint boot and boot retaining clip (Figure 5).

CAUTION: Failure to remove the ball joint boot and retaining clip before pressing the ball joint out of the steering knuckle will make ball joint removal difficult.

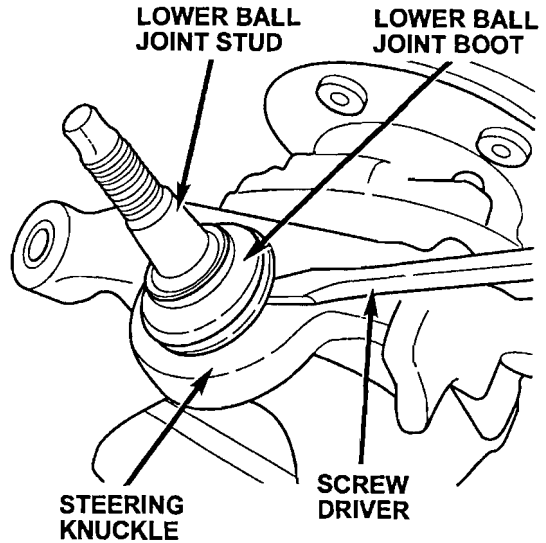


Figure 5

- Press the lower ball joint from the steering knuckle using special tool C-4212F (press), 8859-2 (receiver) and 8859-1 (driver) (Figure 6).

NOTE: Make sure the receiver is centered over the ball joint before pressing the ball joint from the knuckle.

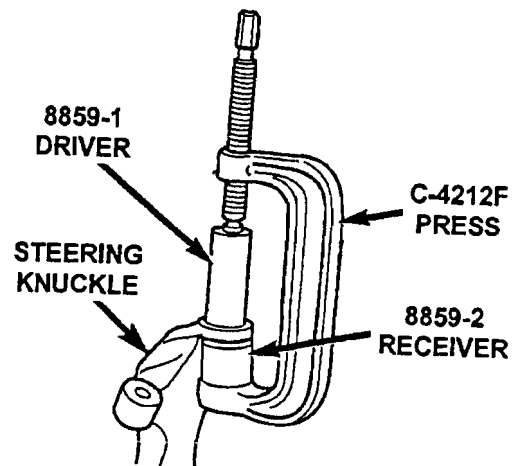


Figure 6

- Remove any debris from the ball joint bore located in the steering knuckle.

Service Procedure (Continued)

19. Install the new ball joint into the steering knuckle and press into position using special tools C-4212-F (press), 8859-3 (driver) and 6761 (receiver) (Figure 7).

CAUTION: The white plastic ball joint boot protective cover must be in place while pressing the new ball joint into the knuckle. The protective cover will prevent boot damage during ball joint installation.

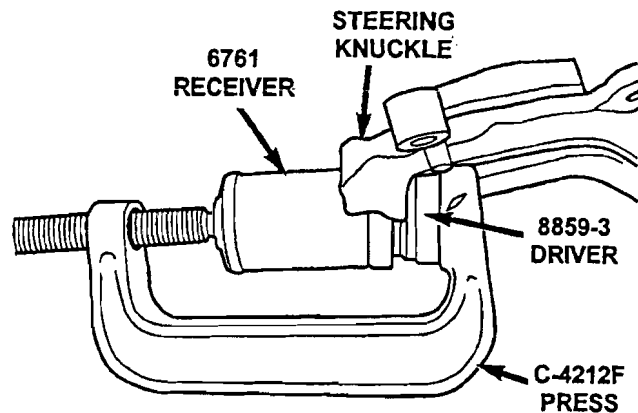


Figure 7

20. Remove and discard the white plastic ball joint boot protective cover from the new ball joint after the ball joint has been pressed into the knuckle.
21. Inspect the ball joint boot for any damage. If a damaged boot is found the joint must be replaced.
22. **For vehicles with four wheel drive**, remove the support for the front axle shaft and place it into position.
- NOTE:** If the threads on the upper ball joint or tie rod end are corroded, use a 14mm x 1.50 thread tap to clean the threads.
23. Remove the steering knuckle from the vise and install the steering knuckle into position.
- CAUTION:** The ball joint stud and tapered hole in the control arm must be clean and oil free before installing the steering knuckle into position.
24. Install the supplied new upper ball joint nut. Tighten the nut to 60 ft. lbs. (81 N·m).
25. Install the supplied new lower ball joint nut. Tighten the nut to 60 ft. lbs. (81 N·m).
26. **For vehicles with four wheel drive**, install the axle shaft nut. Tighten the axle shaft nut to 96 ft. lbs. (130 N·m).
27. **For vehicles with ABS brakes**, install the wheel speed sensor. Tighten the mounting bolt to 120 in. lbs. (13.5 N·m).

Service Procedure (Continued)

- 28. Install the disc brake rotor onto the axle hub while aligning the indexing marks made in Step 5.
- 29. Install the brake caliper adapter (with the caliper) onto the steering knuckle. Tighten the caliper adapter mounting bolts to 100 ft. lbs. (135 N·m) (Figure 2).

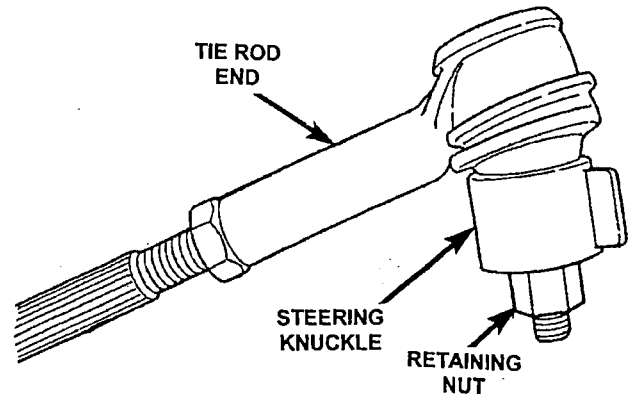


Figure 8

- 30. Connect the tie rod end to the steering knuckle and install the supplied new retaining nut (Figure 8). Tighten the tie rod end retaining nut to 60 ft. lbs. (81 N·m).
- 31. **On 2002 and 2003 model year vehicles**, inspect the steering knuckle for the presence of a ball joint heat shield. Vehicles without heat shields must have them installed (Figure 9).

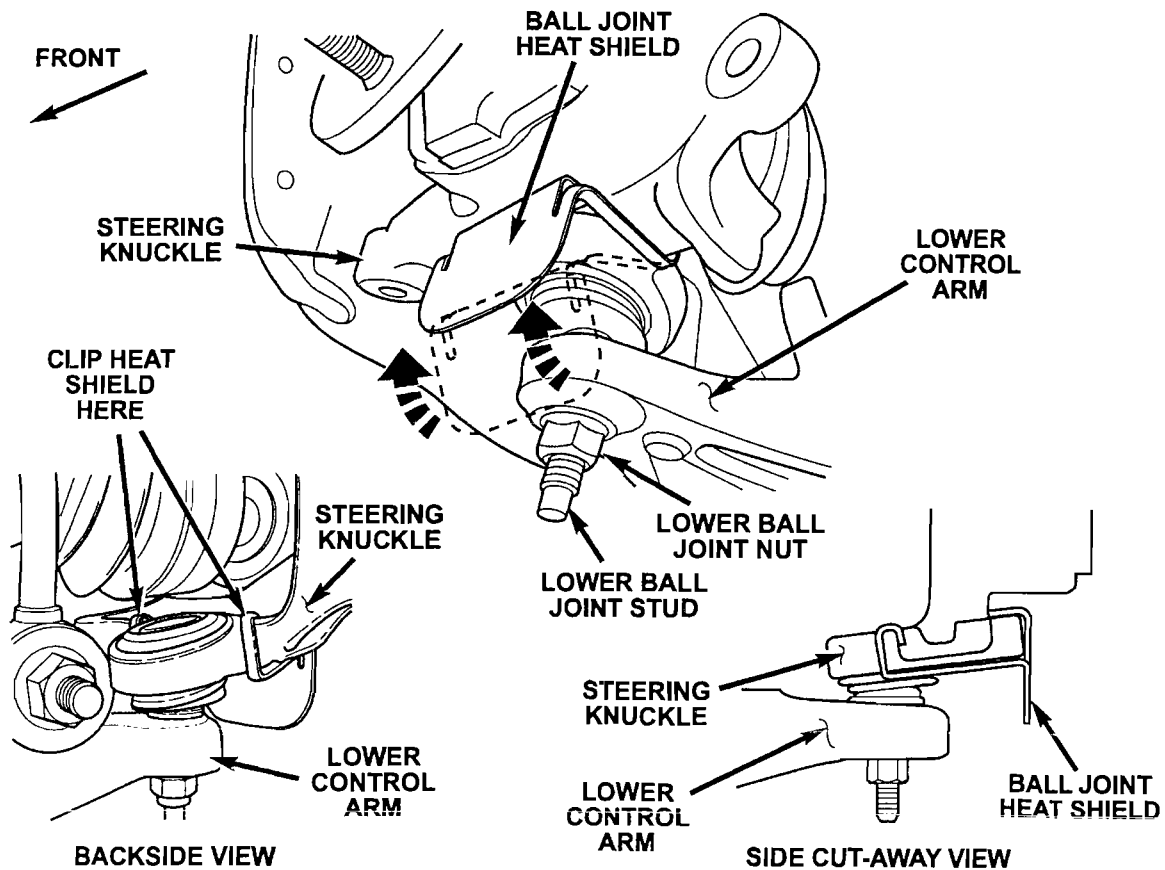


Figure 9

Service Procedure (Continued)

- 32. Repeat Steps 2 through 31 to replace the ball joint on the other side of the vehicle and then continue with Step 33.
- 33. Install the right and left side wheel and tire assembly. Tighten the lug nuts to 100 ft. lbs. (135 N·m).
- 34. Lower the vehicle from the hoist.
- 35. Pump the brake pedal several times before moving the vehicle.
- 36. Return the vehicle to the customer.

Completion Reporting and Reimbursement

Claims for vehicles that have been serviced must be submitted on the DIAL or DealerCONNECT System. 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:

	Labor Operation Number	Time Allowance
Replace both front ball Joints (4x2)	02-F2-31-82	1.0 hours
Replace both front ball Joints (4x4)	02-F2-31-83	1.1 hours

Add the cost of the recall parts package 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 three copies of this dealer recall notification letter by mail. 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.

IMPORTANT: Owners involved in this recall will be notified in phases by model year (oldest-to-newest) based on parts availability.

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

SAFETY RECALL F23 – LOWER BALL JOINTS

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 **2002 through 2006 model year Jeep® Liberty vehicles.**

NOTE: 2002 and 2003 model year vehicles involved in a previous ball joint recall must also have this recall performed.

The problem is... Water may enter into the front suspension lower ball joints on your Jeep (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx). This can cause the ball joint to corrode and separate. Ball joint separation can result in a loss of steering control and could cause a crash without prior warning.

What your dealer will do... DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will replace both front lower ball joints. The work will take about 1 hour 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 parts for your vehicle or to order them 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 attached prepaid postcard, if any of the conditions listed on the card apply to you or your vehicle.

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 F23

*Buckle up
for Safety!*

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