

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

RECEIVED

2006 OCT -2 P 3:05

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

October 25, 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-386

Enclosed are representative copies of communications relating to the 2007 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. In addition, two vehicles (one 2004 model year and one 2006 model year Durango) that had a suspect service replacement right steering knuckle installed according to our records, have been added to the recall population.

DaimlerChrysler expects to notify dealers on November 1, 2006 and to begin owner notification during the week of November 8, 2006. The exact number of manufactured vehicles in the recall is 5020.

The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:

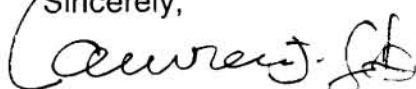
<u>Low</u>	<u>High</u>
7F500305	7F513253

(VIN last eight characters) - 7 = 2007 model year; F = Newark Assembly Plant, Newark, DE; 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.

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

Sincerely,



for Stephan J. Speth, Director
Vehicle Compliance and Safety Affairs

Enclosure: Recall F48

cc: K.C. DeMeter

November 2006

Dealer Service Instructions for:

Safety Recall F48 – Right Steering Knuckle

Models

2007 (HB) Dodge Durango

2007 (HG) Chrysler Aspen

NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles built from July 24, 2006 through September 1, 2006 (MDH 072406 through 090110).

IMPORTANT: *Many of the vehicles within the above build period have already been inspected or repaired and, therefore, have been excluded from this recall. In addition, a small number of 2004 (HB) through 2006 (HB) model year vehicles that have had a suspect replacement right steering knuckle installed between July 21, 2006 through October 19, 2006 according to our records, have been added to this recall. Every effort should be made by dealers to review their records and contact owners who have purchased a right steering knuckle shipped to dealers between July 21, 2006 through October 19, 2006.*

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 right steering knuckle on about 5,000 of the above vehicles may have been improperly manufactured and could break. This may cause a loss of steering control and result in a crash without warning.

Repair

The right steering knuckle must be inspected and replaced if necessary.

Alternate Transportation

Dealers should attempt to minimize customer inconvenience by placing the owner in a loaner vehicle if inspection determines that right knuckle replacement is required and the vehicle must be held overnight.

Parts Information

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
52113228AD	Knuckle, Right Steering

Due to the small number of involved vehicles expected to require a right steering knuckle replacement, no parts will be distributed initially. The right steering knuckle should be ordered only after inspection determines that replacement is required.

Essential Tools

The following essential tool is required to perform this repair:

8677	Remover, Ball Joint
-------------	----------------------------

Service Procedure**A. Inspect the Right Steering Knuckle Date Code**

1. Raise the vehicle on a suitable hoist.
2. Look on the inboard side of the right steering knuckle. Read the cavity number to right of the letter “J” (Figure 1).
 - If the mold cavity number is **NOT** #63, no further action is needed. Return the vehicle to the customer.
 - If the mold cavity number **IS** #63, read the 15 digit date code (Figure 1). If the first 5 digits of the date code is either **06199XX_XXXXXXX** or **06200XX_XXXXXXX**, continue to Section B – Replace the Right Steering Knuckle. If the first five digits of the date code are **NOT** **06199...** or **06200...**, return the vehicle to the customer.

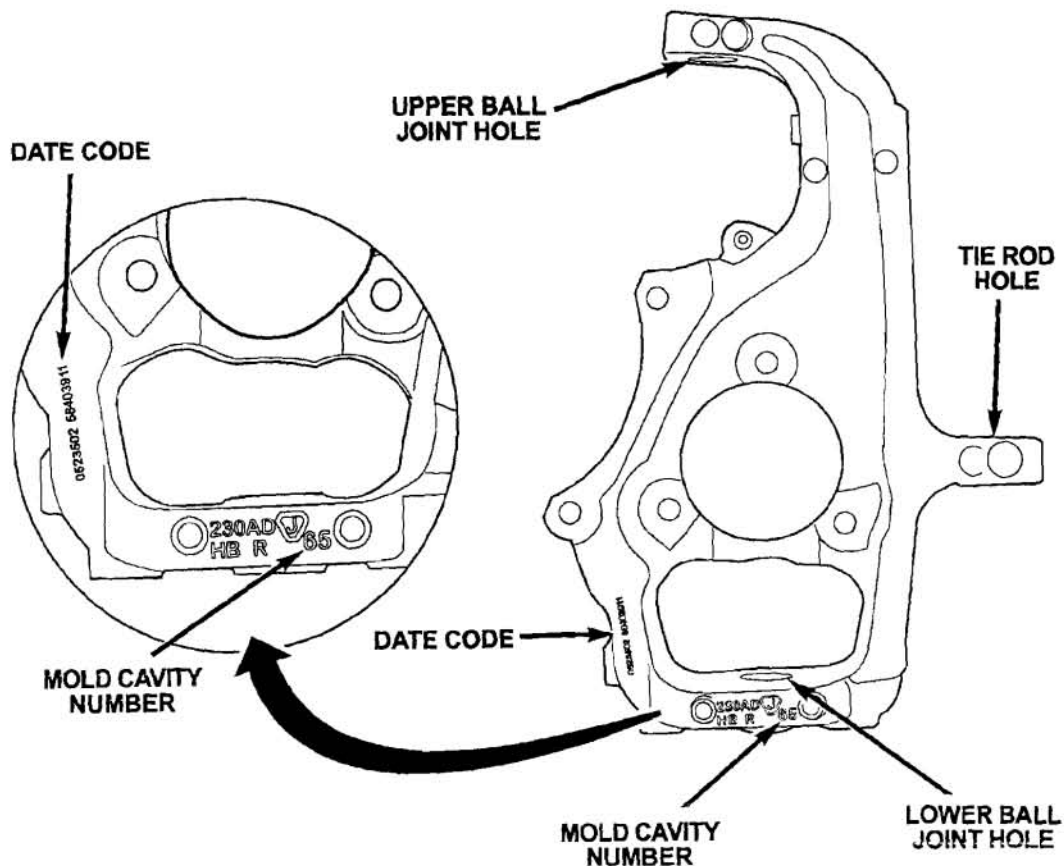


Figure 1

Service Procedure (Continued)**B. Replace the Right Steering Knuckle**

1. Remove the wheel and tire assembly.
2. Remove the brake caliper assembly and adaptor from the steering knuckle. Suspend the brake caliper assembly and adaptor away from the work area.

CAUTION: Do not suspend the brake caliper assembly and adaptor by the brake hose.

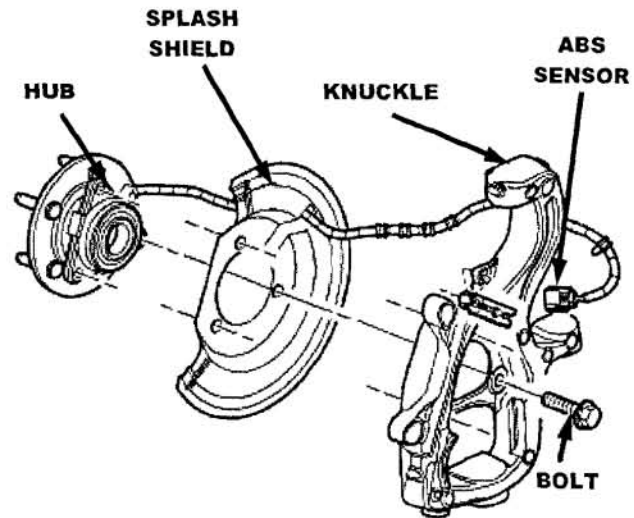


Figure 2

3. Mark the brake rotor and the corresponding hub wheel stud.
4. **FOR VEHICLES WITH ABS:** Remove the brake rotor and ABS wheel speed sensor (Figure 2).
5. **FOR VEHICLES WITH ABS:** Remove the ABS wheel speed sensor wire retainer from the knuckle.
6. **FOR 4 X 4 EQUIPPED VEHICLES:** remove the front half shaft hub nut.
7. Remove the tie-rod end nut and separate the tie-rod from the knuckle using essential tool #8677.

CAUTION: Do not damage the tie-rod seal when using essential tool #8677.

8. Remove the upper ball joint nut and separate the upper ball joint from the knuckle using essential tool #8677.

CAUTION: Do not damage the ball joint seal when using essential tool #8677.

Service Procedure (Continued)

9. Loosen the lower ball joint nut and leave the nut on the ball joint only finger tight.
10. Separate the lower ball joint from the knuckle using essential tool #8677.

CAUTION: Do not damage the ball joint seal when using essential tool #8677.

11. Remove the knuckle from the vehicle.
12. Transfer the hub/bearing and splash shield from the old steering knuckle to the new steering knuckle and tighten the three bolts to 120 ft. lbs. (163 N·m).
13. Discard the old steering knuckle.
14. Using mineral spirits, clean and dry the ball joint and tie rod end stud tapers.
15. **FOR 4 X 4 EQUIPPED VEHICLES:** Position the half-shaft into the new steering knuckle.
16. Install the upper and lower ball joint tapers to the steering knuckle and hand start the nuts.
17. Tighten the upper ball joint nut to 55 ft. lbs. (75 N·m).
18. Tighten the lower ball joint nut to 70 ft. lbs. (95 N·m).
19. Install the tie rod end and tighten the nut to 55 ft. lbs. (75 N·m).
20. For 4 x 4 equipped vehicles: Install the half shaft nut and tighten to 185 ft. lbs. (251 N·m)
21. **FOR VEHICLES WITH ABS:** Attach the ABS wheel speed sensor wire retainer to the knuckle.
22. **FOR VEHICLES WITH ABS:** Install the ABS wheel speed sensor into the hub and tighten the bolt to 190 in. lbs. (21 N·m).

Service Procedure (Continued)

23. Install the brake rotor aligning the brake rotor to the hub wheel stud marks made in Step 3.
24. Install the brake caliper assembly and adaptor to the steering knuckle and tighten the bolts to 130 ft. lbs. (176 N·m).
25. Install the wheel and tire assembly. Tighten the wheel lug nuts to 135 ft. lbs. (183 N·m).
26. Apply the service brakes several times to seat the brake caliper pistons.
27. Transfer the vehicle onto an alignment rack and adjust the toe-in to $0.10^{\circ} \pm 0.05^{\circ}$.

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 one of the following labor operation numbers and time allowances:

	Labor Operation Number	Time Allowance
Inspect the right steering knuckle date code.	02-F4-81-81	0.2 hours
Replace the right steering knuckle and set toe-in.	02-F4-81-82	1.2 hours

Add the cost of the recall parts 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.

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 F48 – RIGHT STEERING KNUCKLE

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 **2007 model year Chrysler Aspen and Dodge Durango vehicles**. This recall also involves a small number of 2004 through 2006 Dodge Durango vehicles that have had a suspect replacement right steering knuckle installed.

The problem is... The right steering knuckle on your vehicle (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) may have been improperly manufactured and could break. This may cause a loss of steering control and result in 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 inspect the steering knuckle and replace it if necessary. The inspection will take a few minutes to complete and steering knuckle replacement, if necessary, will take about 1½ hour. 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. **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 F48

*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.