

U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

FEB - 5 2007

MR. DARRYL BOUTWELL PRODUCTION MANAGER L.K.I. ENTERPRISES, INC. 300 HUEY LENARD LOOP ROAD WEST MONROE, LA 71292 NVS-215kjs 07E-009

400 Seventh Street, SW

Washington, DC 20590

Subject: REPLACEMENT PITMAN ARM FAILURE

Dear MR. BOUTWELL:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

#### Makes/Models/Model Years:

DODGE/RAM 2500/2003-2007 DODGE/RAM 3500/2003-2007 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/04-4640/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4007/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4640/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4640B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4640R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4645/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4645B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4650/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4650B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4650R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4655/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4655B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4655R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4660/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4660B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4665/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4665B/9999

SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K822R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K822/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K821/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K761R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K761/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K760R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K760B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K760/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K757R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K757B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K757/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K756R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K756B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K756/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4675R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4675B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4675/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4670R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4670B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/4670/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K833/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K832B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K832/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K824R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K824B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K824/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K823R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K823B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K823/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K822B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K821R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K821B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K761B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K835B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K835/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K834R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K834B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K834/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K833R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K833B/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K832R/9999 SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION/K835R/9999

# **Components:**

SUSPENSION

# Potential Number of Units Affected: 3,350

### Summary:

CERTAIN LKI ENTERPRISES, INC., BRAND NAME SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION, PITMAN ARMS SOLD AS REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT FOR 2003-2007 DODGE RAM 2500 AND 3500 4X4 LIGHT TRUCKS. DUE TO INADEQUATE HEAT TREATMENT DURING PRODUCTION, THE AFFECTED PITMAN ARMS MAY DEVELOP CRACKS IN THE UPPER SPLINED ATTACHMENT TO THE STEERING OUTPUT SHAFT. MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE PITMAN ARM AND THE OUTPUT SHAFT MAY DEFORM SPLINES, RESULTING IN PREMATURE WEAR AND FATIGUE FAILURE OF THE AFFECTED PITMAN ARM.

# **Consequence:**

PITMAN ARM WEAR OR FAILURE MAY LEAD TO LOSS OF VEHICLE CONTROL, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN A VEHICLE CRASH.

# **Remedy:**

LKI WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPLACE THE PITMAN ARM, IF NECESSARY. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING FEBRUARY 2007. OWNERS MAY CONTACT LKI AT 1-800-551-4955.

# Notes:

LKI RECALL NO. 07-01PIT. THIS RECALL ONLY PERTAINS TO REPLACEMENT LKI, SUPERLIFT SUSPENSION KITS, AND HAS NO RELATION TO ANY ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLED ON DODGE RAM 4X4 LIGHT TRUCKS MANUFACTURED BY DAIMLERCHRYSLER. CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV.

Please provide the following additional information and be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner). LKI must file a sample of the envelope which you intend to use to mail the recall notice to owners. The words "SAFETY", "RECALL", "NOTICE" in any order must be printed on the envelope in larger font than the customers name and address.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. The recall is expected to begin during February 2007. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due in this office on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227 or by email at Kelly.schuler@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

George H. Person Chief, Recall Management Division Office of Defects Investigation Enforcement