

RECEIVED

2007 JUNE 13 P 2:30

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

# DAIMLERCHRYSLER

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth

Director

Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

June 5, 2007

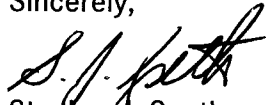
Mr. Daniel C. Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building, Fourth Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20590

07V-247  
(10 pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Attached is DaimlerChrysler Corporation's (DCC's) Noncompliance Report, complying with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, which affects 2007 model year Dodge Ram 1500 pickup trucks equipped with a 34 gallon fuel tank. The fuel tank may become damaged during certain crash conditions, which could allow fuel leakage to occur if the vehicle rolls over. As a result, these vehicles fail to conform to FMVSS 301 - Fuel System Integrity. DCC will conduct a safety recall to install a fuel tank shield onto the front frame cross member of all affected vehicles.

Sincerely,

  
Stephan J. Speth

Enclosures: Noncompliance Information Report for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall G16  
Dealer and Owner Notification Letters for DaimlerChrysler Corporation Recall G16

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

**NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER CORPORATION  
RECALL G16**

Page 1

**Submission date:** June 5, 2007

**Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:**

| Make  | Model            | Model Year | Inclusive Dates of Manufacture | Vehicle Volume | Other  |
|-------|------------------|------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Dodge | Ram Pickup Truck | 2007       | 4/25/06 through 4/23/07        | 5,062          | 1500 series pickup w/ 34 gallon fuel tank only |

**Estimated percentage containing noncompliance:** 100%

**The involved Vehicle Identification Number range is:**

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| <u>Low</u> | <u>High</u> |
| 7J500123   | 7J613784    |
| 7S100229   | 7S100257    |

(VIN last eight characters) - 7 = 2007 model year; S = Warren Truck Assembly Plant, Warren, Michigan; J = St. Louis Assembly Plant, St. Louis, Missouri; and last six digits = sequential number.

DCC cautions 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.

**Description of Noncompliance:**

The fuel tank may become damaged during certain crash conditions, which could allow fuel leakage to occur if the vehicle rolls over. As a result, these vehicles fail to conform to FMVSS 301 - Fuel System Integrity.

**The following chronology of principal events led to the determination of a noncompliance:**

- For 2007 model year Dodge Ram pickup trucks, a molded-in feature to retain the nylon vapor line was added to the 34 gallon high density polyethylene fuel tank shell. This feature eliminated tape which was previously used to positively locate the line.
- In April of 2007, a 2008 model year Dodge Ram pickup development vehicle was subjected to a 30 MPH frontal impact test at the DCC's Chelsea Proving Grounds. The vehicle was subjected to a static rotation test following the impact and a fuel leak was observed.

## **NONCOMPLIANCE INFORMATION REPORT FOR DAIMLERCHRYSLER CORPORATION RECALL G16**

Page 2

- A stop shipment of 2007 model year Dodge Ram pickup trucks with the 34 gallon fuel tank was put in place and an investigation initiated. This investigation subsequently determined that the molded-in feature to retain the vapor line could be damaged by the front frame cross member from relative motion between the fuel tank and the cross member during an impact event.
- Additional analysis determined that all other Dodge Ram pickup truck configurations were not susceptible to this condition.
- The 34 gallon fuel tank was revised to eliminate the molded-in retention feature and tape was again used to locate the vapor line to the fuel tank shell. A metal shield to isolate the fuel tank from the front frame cross member hole was developed to retrofit all completed held vehicles.
- DCC is not aware of any customer complaints or field reports related to this issue.
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on May 29, 2007 who decided to conduct a safety recall to install a fuel tank shield onto the front frame cross member.

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

DCC will install a fuel tank shield onto the front frame cross member of all affected vehicles. DCC notified dealers on June 5, 2007 and expects to initiate notification to owners on June 12, 2007.

DCC has a long-standing 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.

Dealer Service Instructions for:

## **Safety Recall G16 Fuel Tank Shield**

---

### **Models**

#### **2007 (DR) Dodge Ram 1500 Series Pickup Truck**

*NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles equipped with a 34 gallon fuel tank (sales code NFU) built at the St. Louis North Assembly Plant or Warren Truck Assembly Plant (“J” or “S” in the 11<sup>th</sup> VIN Position) built through April 23, 2007 (MDH 042315). 1500 series Mega-Cab pick up trucks are not included in this recall.*

***IMPORTANT:** Many of the vehicles within the above build period have already been inspected or repaired and, therefore, have been excluded from this recall.*

**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 fuel tank on about 5,000 of the above vehicles may become damaged during certain crash conditions. This could allow fuel leakage to occur if the vehicle rolls over. Fuel leakage in the presence of an ignition source can result in an underbody fire. As a result, these vehicles fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) 301 – Fuel System Integrity.

### **Repair**

A fuel tank shield must be installed onto the front frame crossmember above the fuel tank.

**Parts Information**

| <u>Part Number</u> | <u>Description</u>       |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>CBA0G160</b>    | <b>Shield, Fuel Tank</b> |

**Each dealer** to whom vehicles in the recall were assigned will receive enough Fuel Tank Shields to service 100% of those vehicles.

**Reminder:** VIN specific parts application information for involved vehicles is available on DealerCONNECT through the Global Recall System (GRS) and Vehicle Information Plus (VIP).

**For your dealer’s assigned vehicles;** click on the “**Service**” tab, click on “**Global Recall System,**” enter the **recall number** in the “Recall Code:” box, and select “**VIN**” in the “List By:” drop down menu.

**For all involved vehicles;** click on the “**Service**” tab, click on “**Single VIN Inquiry,**” enter the **VIN and mileage,** click “**View,**” and click on the “**Recall**” tab.

**Service Procedure**

1. Raise the vehicle on an appropriate hoist.
2. Place a transmission jack under the fuel tank.
3. Loosen the front and rear fuel tank strap nuts until 3 to 4 threads of engagement remain (Figure 1).

**CAUTION: Do not allow the fuel tank strap stud to turn while loosening the fuel tank strap nut.**

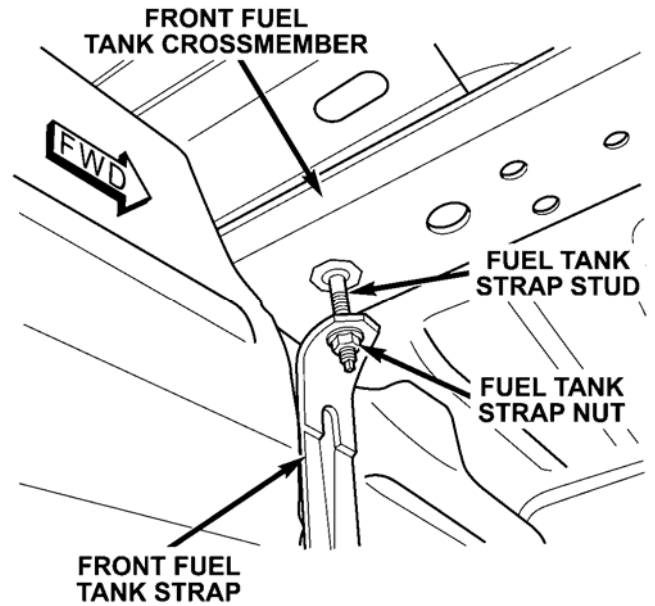


Figure 1 – Front Strap Shown

4. Carefully lower the fuel tank to gain access to the crossmember located above the fuel tank.
5. Clean any dirt and debris that may have collected on the front crossmember (Figure 2).
6. Remove the protective paper from double sided adhesive tape on the fuel tank shield.

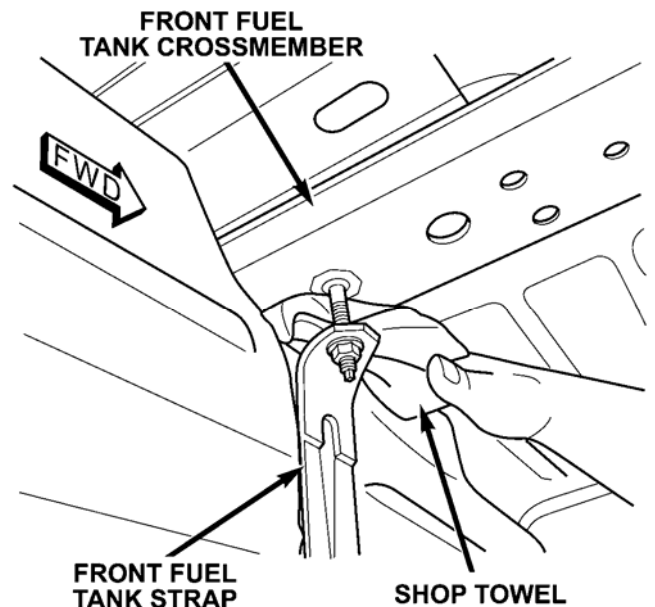
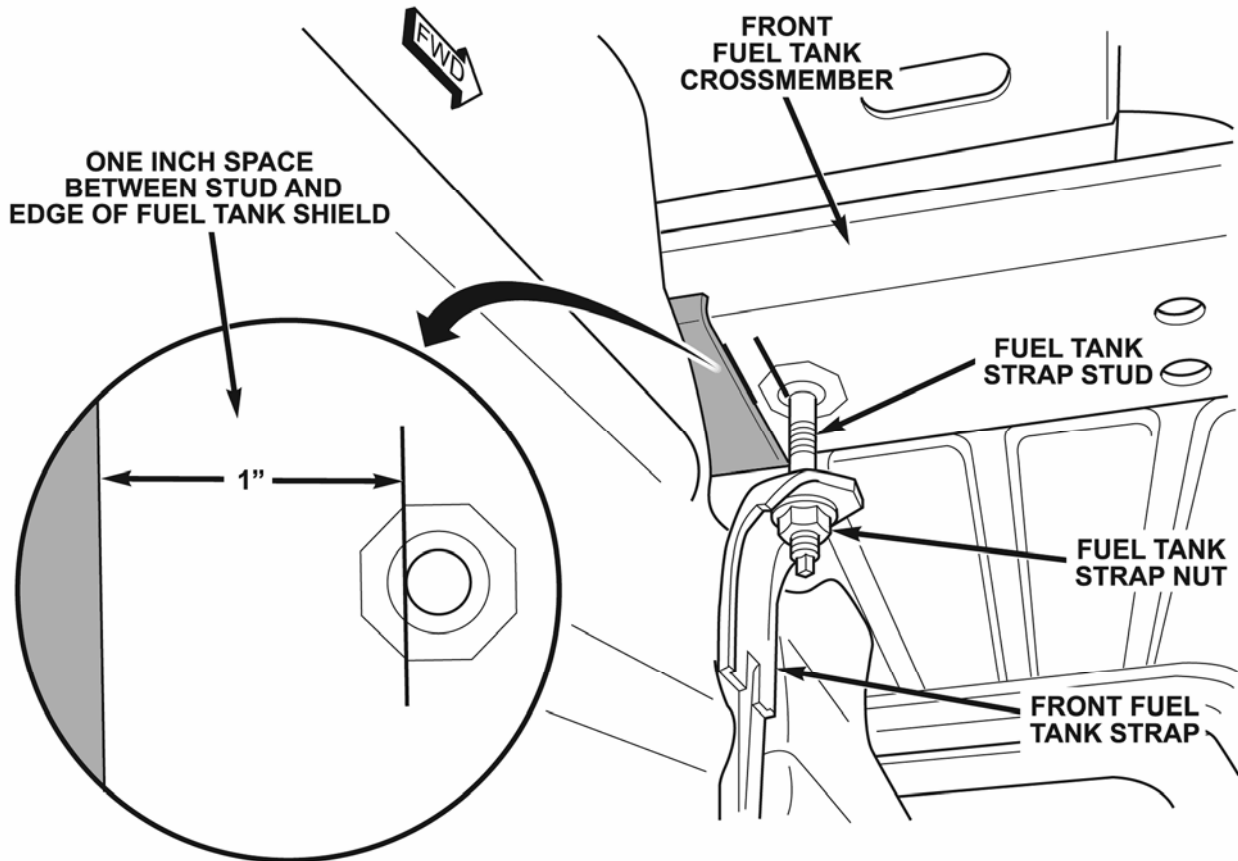


Figure 2

**Service Procedure (Continued)****Figure 3**

7. Install the fuel tank shield onto the front crossmember located above the fuel tank so that the edge of the shield is approximately one inch (25mm) from the fuel tank strap stud as shown in Figure 3.

**CAUTION: The taller flange on the shield must be installed so that it is on the forward side of the crossmember and both flanges must point upward away from the fuel tank as shown in Figure 3.**

8. Using the transmission jack, raise the fuel tank into position.
9. Tighten the front and rear fuel tank strap nuts to 44 ft. lbs. (60 N·m).
10. Remove the transmission jack from under the vehicle.
11. Lower the vehicle from the hoist.

**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<br/>Number</b> | <b>Time<br/>Allowance</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Install Fuel Tank Shield | 14-G1-61-82                       | 0.3 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.



**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 G16 – FUEL TANK SHIELD

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 some **2007 model year Dodge Ram 1500 series pickup trucks equipped with a 34 gallon fuel tank** fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 301 – Fuel System Integrity.

***The problem is...***    **The fuel tank on your truck (VIN: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) may become damaged during certain crash conditions. This could allow fuel leakage to occur if the vehicle rolls over. Fuel leakage in the presence of an ignition source can result in an underbody fire.**

***What your dealer will do...***    **DaimlerChrysler will repair your vehicle free of charge (parts and labor). To do this, your dealer will install a fuel tank shield. The work will take about ½ hour to complete. However, additional time may be necessary depending on service schedules.**

***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 noncompliance 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 G16

*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.