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## DAIMLERCHRYSLER

#### DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Stephan J. Speth Director Vehicle Compliance & Safety Affairs

October 2, 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-473 (3 Pages)

Dear Mr. Smith:

Attached is Chrysler LLC's ("Chrysler") Defect Information Report, complying with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, which contains details of a potential safety related defect in some 2007 and 2008 model year Chrysler Sebring and Dodge Avenger vehicles built with the 2.4 liter engine. Engine coolant may be drawn into the left radiator cooling fan motor connector, which could lead to an electrical short circuit and result in an engine compartment fire. Chrysler will conduct a safety recall to inspect the connector for contamination or damage, install a wiring harness overlay and, if necessary, replace the cooling fan motor on the affected vehicles.

Sincerely, aurent. Sek Stephan J. Speth

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler LLC Recall G39

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

#### DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER LLC RECALL G39

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#### Submission date: October 2, 2007

#### Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Volume (estimated)	Other
Dodge	Avenger	2007- 2008	3/09/06 through 07/27/07	102,042	With 2.4 liter engine only
Chrysler	Sebring				

#### Estimated percentage containing defect: TBD

#### **Description of Defect:**

Engine coolant may be drawn into the left radiator cooling fan motor connector. This can cause an electrical short circuit and result in an engine compartment fire.

# The following chronology of principal events occurred between July and September of 2007 and led to the determination of a defect:

- In July of 2007, Chrysler received a report of an engine compartment fire in a 2.4 liter Chrysler Sebring rental vehicle in Florida. Investigation of the vehicle fire determined the origin to be the left side radiator cooling fan motor connector.
- Chrysler Engineering surveyed twenty 2.4L Dodge Avenger and Chrysler Sebring vehicles at the rental facility in Florida. The survey determined that four of the twenty vehicles had contamination in the left radiator cooling fan motor connector.
- The four cooling fan assemblies with wiring were removed from the vehicles. Analysis determined engine coolant was the contamination present in the connector.
- Laboratory testing determined electrical arcing could occur between the cooling fan motor terminals with engine coolant present in the connector.
- Additional investigation in August and September determined that coolant from the overflow spout of the recovery bottle could contact the left radiator cooling fan ground terminal eyelet. This could allow coolant to enter the electrical connector through the ground wire via wicking or thermal siphoning.
- The company is aware of seventeen reports of 2.4 liter engine compartment fires that appear related to this condition.
- This data was presented to the Chrysler Vehicle Regulations Committee on September 25, 2007 who decided to conduct a safety recall.

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

Chrysler will conduct a safety recall to inspect the connector for contamination or damage, install a wiring harness overlay and, if necessary, replace the fan motor on the affected vehicles. Chrysler expects to initiate national notification to dealers and to owners in November of 2007.

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Chrysler 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, Chrysler, 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.