

May 5, 2008

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

08V-203
(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 on some 2006 model year Jeep Commander vehicles equipped with 4.7L engines. The Powertrain Control Module (PCM) was programmed with software that may allow the engine to stall under certain operating conditions. Chrysler will conduct a safety recall to reprogram the PCM software.

Sincerely,


Stephan J. Speth

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall H19

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

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
RECALL MGMT DIV.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER LLC RECALL H19

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Submission date: May 5, 2008

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Models	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Volume	Other
Jeep	Commander	2006	February 25, 2005 - January 11, 2006	24,461 (estimated)	With 4.7L V8 engine only

Estimated percentage containing defect: 100%

Description of defect:

The Powertrain Control Module (PCM) was programmed with software that may allow the engine to stall under certain operating conditions. This could cause a crash without warning.

The following chronology of principal events occurred between February 2007 and May 2008 and led to the determination of a defect:

- NHTSA opened Preliminary Evaluation PE07-009 on February 12, 2007 based on complaints of engine stall while driving in 2006-2007 model year Jeep Commanders.
- Chrysler assembled a task force to investigate, but was unable to locate a subject vehicle that demonstrated the condition, and thus at the time of the PE response no causal factor was identified.
- On April 27, 2007 NHTSA upgraded the investigation to Engineering Analysis EA07-007 to further assess the frequency, scope and potential consequence of the alleged defect.
- A fleet of 2006-2007 model year Commanders repurchased for multiple allegations of engine stall while driving was assembled. These vehicles were instrumented and driven in an attempt to duplicate and understand the engine stall condition.
- On November 6, 2007 NHTSA provided an updated Information Request and noted they had received additional complaints of Commander engine stall, with the vast majority of these involving 2006 model year vehicles.
- Complaint data indicated two distinct populations of vehicles, with the 4.7L V8 engine equipped Commanders built prior to early January of 2006 experiencing a significantly higher level of input. NHTSA agreed that the low level of complaint for other build dates and powertrain configurations of the subject vehicles in this investigation was typical.
- Additional analysis by Chrysler of all narrative complaint data received for these early built 2006 model year Commanders indicated that many of the complaints appeared to occur at low speed, and only a very small percentage mentioned turning during the event. In almost all cases the vehicle was immediately able to be restarted.
- Further investigation determined that on January 11, 2006 a change to the 2006 model year Commander Powertrain Control Module (PCM) software had been implemented into production. Timing of this software change corresponded to the significant decrease in

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complaint data.

- Based on the narrative complaint data analysis, this software upgrade was released to the service community in December of 2007 as Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) 18-049-07. In addition, vehicles in the Chrysler test fleet were updated with the software revision.
- To further investigate the circumstances associated with the alleged stalling events, a number of customers were contacted via telephone and additional detail requested. Although the majority of the events occurred at lower speeds, some of the respondents noted occurrences of higher speed stalling, and many noted multiple occurrences. There were also some reports of stalling while turning. These customers were encouraged to return to the dealership to have the TSB performed.
- The company is aware of five reports alleging crash due to this condition, with one of those having injury and minor property damage.
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on April 28, 2008, who decided to conduct a safety recall.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

Chrysler will reprogram the PCM software in all 4.7L engine equipped 2006 model year Jeep Commanders built prior to January 11, 2006. Chrysler expects to initiate national notification to dealers and owners in May of 2008.

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 the original receipt and/or other adequate proof of payment to the company for confirmation of the expense.