



08V-583
(3 Pages)

November 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

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 2006-2009 model year Dodge Charger and Magnum police vehicles. The gearshift cable may become disengaged from the steering column mounting bracket and cause an incorrect transmission gearshift position display.

Chrysler will conduct a safety recall to add a redundant locking mechanism to the gearshift cable at the mounting bracket to ensure proper retention and shift linkage function.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. J. Speth".

Stephan J. Speth

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall H37

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

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2008 NOVEMBER 6 - 10:00 AM
OFFICE OF RECALL
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER LLC RECALL H37

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Submission date: November 5, 2008

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Volume	Other
Dodge	Charger, Magnum	2006-2009	May 17, 2005 – October 21, 2008	20,283 (estimated)	Police package equipped with column shifter only

Estimated percentage containing defect: 54 %

Description of defect:

The gearshift cable may become disengaged from the steering column mounting bracket and cause an incorrect transmission gearshift position display. This could allow the vehicle to move inadvertently and cause a crash without warning.

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

- On September 2, 2008 NHTSA opened Preliminary Evaluation PE08-052 based on 5 complaints of incorrect gear position indication involving 2007 model year Dodge Charger police vehicles.
- The Dodge Charger and Magnum police vehicles are equipped with a column shifter and gearshift linkage that is unique to these vehicles. This design has been utilized since the vehicles were introduced for the 2006 model year and continues into the 2009 model year vehicles.
- A 2009 model year police vehicle was inspected. Though the gearshift cable appeared fully seated into the steering column mounting bracket, the cable retention feature (locking pin) was not fully seated. It was subsequently determined that if the retention feature is not fully seated, the cable may disengage from the mounting bracket, resulting in the shift linkage system not functioning to design intent with the potential for incorrect gear position indication via the PRNDL.
- Additional inspections of 56 new 2009 model year Dodge Charger and Magnum police vehicles in September and October found 30 where the gearshift cable was not fully engaged to the mounting bracket.
- Analysis indicated that with tolerance variation a misalignment between the locking pin of the gearshift cable and the corresponding hole in the mounting bracket can result in incomplete engagement of the locking pin.
- On October 21, 2008 the gearshift cable assembly operation for the Dodge Charger and Magnum police vehicles was modified to add a redundant locking mechanism (tie strap) to

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retain the gearshift cable to the mounting bracket.

- For the 2007 model year Dodge Charger and Magnum police vehicles (PE08-052 subject vehicles) a search of available field data found 9 customer complaints and 55 field reports that appear to indicate this condition.
- Chrysler is not aware of any reports of crashes, injuries or fatalities related to this condition
- This data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on October 28, 2008 who decided to conduct a safety recall.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

Chrysler will conduct a safety recall to add a redundant locking mechanism to the gearshift cable at the mounting bracket to ensure proper retention and shift linkage function. Chrysler expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and owners in November of 2008.

Chrysler has a longstanding 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.