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2009 JANUARY 13  
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
RECALL MGMT DIV.

09E-001  
(3 pages)

January 6, 2009

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 aftermarket replacement equipment; i.e., steering linkages sold during the 2008 calendar year for use as service equipment on 2003-2008 model year Dodge Ram heavy duty pickup trucks. These linkages may experience drag link inner tie rod to pitman arm ball stud fracture. This could result in a loss of steering control and cause a crash without warning. Also, the steering damper attaching bracket may yield and shift on the linkage. This could result in a restricted ability to turn the vehicle in one direction. This recall is associated with Chrysler Recall H36, which covers 2008-2009 model year Dodge Ram pickups that have the same steering linkages installed as original equipment.

Although only approximately 18,000 aftermarket steering linkages with these problems were sold, Chrysler will notify the owners of all 2003-2008 model year Dodge Ram heavy duty pickups (other than those covered by Chrysler Recall H36) by mail, since those vehicles could potentially have had the affected linkages installed during service. Owners who had vehicle steering linkage service during the 2008 calendar year will be requested to take their vehicle to a dealer for inspection and for repair if required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence J. Sak".

Lawrence J. Sak

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall H46

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

## **DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER LLC RECALL H46**

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**Submission date:** January 6, 2009

### **Identification of equipment potentially affected:**

Approximately 18,000 subject steering linkages were sold as replacement equipment. The linkages can be identified by the part number.

**Estimated percentage containing defect:** 100%

### **Description of defect:**

The aftermarket steering linkage used for service on some 2003-2008 model year Dodge Ram heavy duty pickup trucks may experience drag link inner tie rod to pitman arm ball stud fracture. This could result in a loss of steering control and cause a crash without warning. Also, on some of these linkages, the steering damper attaching bracket may yield and shift on the linkage. This could result in a restricted ability to turn the vehicle in one direction.

### **The name, address and telephone number of the supplier who manufactured the subject equipment:**

Powers and Sons LLC  
1613 Magda Drive  
Montpelier, Ohio 43543  
(419) 485-3151

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

- In late February of 2008, a redesigned steering linkage system was introduced into production as a running change for the 2008 model year Dodge Ram heavy duty pick up truck (2500 / 3500 / 3500 cab chassis).
- At the December 18, 2008 Chrysler Vehicle Regulations Committee meeting a decision was reached to conduct a safety recall on approximately 32,865 vehicles that utilized the subject steering linkage as original equipment (Chrysler Recall H36) and to conduct this equipment recall.
- The chronology of events leading to this recall is set out in the defect information report for Chrysler Recall H36.
- There are no reports of injury, fatality or property damage attributable to this condition.

## DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER LLC RECALL H46

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

The owners of all potentially affected 2003-2008 model year Dodge Ram vehicles (other than those covered by Chrysler Recall H36) will be contacted by mail. Owners who had vehicle steering linkage service during the 2008 calendar year will be requested to take their vehicle to a dealer for inspection and for repair if required. Chrysler expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and owners in January of 2009.

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.