

July 8, 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 Group 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 Mopar aftermarket tow bar assemblies. These assemblies were sold during the 2007 and 2008 calendar year for use as aftermarket equipment on 2007-2008 model year Jeep Wranglers. The tow bar kit, sold as a Mopar accessory to tow a Jeep Wrangler behind a tow vehicle, can fail under certain driving conditions. This can result in the Wrangler being towed to separate from the tow vehicle, only being retained by the safety cables.

Although only approximately 308 suspect aftermarket tow bar assemblies were sold, Chrysler will notify by mail all owners of 2007-2008 model year Jeep Wranglers who could have purchased a tow bar assembly. Owners who purchased a tow bar assembly will be requested to take their vehicle to a Chrysler dealer for replacement of the tow bar assembly.

Sincerely,



David Bernier

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall J24

cc: K.C. DeMeter, NHTSA

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC RECALL J24

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Submission Date: July 8, 2009

Identification of equipment potentially affected:

Approximately 308 subject tow bar assemblies were sold as Mopar aftermarket equipment. These assemblies can be identified by Chrysler part number 82209758.

Estimated percentage containing defect: 100%

Description of defect:

The tow bar kit can fail under certain driving conditions. This can result in the Jeep Wrangler being towed to separate from the tow vehicle, only being retained by the safety cables.

The name, address and telephone number of the supplier who manufactured the subject part:

Valley Towing Products (formerly Thule Towing Systems LLC)
32501 Dequindre Road
Madison Heights, MI 48071
(248) 588-6900

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

- In the fall of 2007, a complaint was received that a Jeep Wrangler separated from the tow vehicle while using the Mopar tow bar kit. As a precautionary measure, a sales restriction was placed on the tow bar kits while an investigation began.
- Review of the customer complaint revealed an apparent detachment at one of the tow bar horizontal pin connections between the frame mounting bracket and the crossbar.
- Vehicle testing confirmed that during turn maneuvers, side-loading between the frame mounting brackets and the crossbar can result in deformation and/or shearing of the clip which retains the horizontal pin.
- A detached clip can result in a horizontal pin falling out; causing the crossbar connection to the vehicle's frame mounting bracket to detach. If a crossbar connection(s) become(s) detached, the towed-vehicle is only retained by the safety cables, potentially resulting in damage to both the Jeep Wrangler and the tow vehicle.
- To correct the issue, the crossbar was re-designed to engage to the frame mounting brackets via a 2-sided, clevis design that eliminates side-loading of the horizontal pin clips.
- Chrysler Group LLC is aware of seven customer complaints that appear related to this issue. There are no known injuries or fatalities, but three of the complaints reference property damage.
- This data was presented to the Chrysler Vehicle Regulations Committee on June 30, 2009 who decided to conduct an equipment safety recall.

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Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

The owners of all 2007-2008 model year Jeep Wranglers vehicles who could have purchased a tow bar assembly will be contacted by mail. Owners who purchased a tow bar assembly will be requested to take their vehicle to a Chrysler dealer for replacement of the tow bar assembly. Chrysler expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and owners in late August 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 expense confirmation.