

09V-082  
(3 Pages)

March 9, 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 2009 model year Dodge Journey vehicles. The vehicles were manufactured with an unused electrical connector for a 115 volt auxiliary power outlet that is not offered as standard equipment on base level vehicles. These connectors may become corroded and could short circuit. If the fuse for this circuit does not blow, the connector could overheat and potentially catch fire.

Chrysler will conduct a safety recall to re-route and stow the unused connector and pull the fuse to remove power to this unused circuit.

Sincerely,

  
Lawrence J. Sak

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall J09

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

# DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER LLC RECALL J09

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**Submission Date:** March 9, 2009

## Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Volume	Other
Dodge	Journey	2009	July 11, 2008 - February 9, 2009	16,835 (estimated)	Without optional 115 volt auxiliary power outlet

**Estimated percentage containing defect:** 100%

## Description of defect:

An unused electrical connector for the optional 115 volt auxiliary power outlet option may become corroded and could short circuit. If the fuse for this circuit does not blow, the connector could overheat and potentially catch fire.

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

- In January of 2009, Chrysler received several reports of 2009 model year Dodge Journey vehicles having shorted or melted connectors.
- Investigation determined that for the 2009 model year Dodge Journey SE level vehicles, a 9-way connector supplying 12 volt power and ground was unused on vehicles without the optional 115 volt auxiliary power outlet.
- To reduce the number of build combinations in the vehicle assembly plant, some vehicles received body wire harnesses with the subject connector, even though they did not have the 115 volt auxiliary power outlet option.
- These configurations result in an unused connector stowed beneath the driver's seat under the carpet in an area which may be susceptible to moisture.
- The condition can result in possible contamination and corrosion in the connector, which can create a high resistive short by bridging the 12V and adjacent ground circuits
- Additional investigation determined that if the fuse does not blow, potential exists for the connector to overheat and possibly catch fire.
- A review of all available data found six reports of melted connectors in the subject vehicles. In two of these reports, evidence indicates the presence of localized flames at the connector.
- Chrysler is not aware of any injuries, fatalities or property damage (other than to the interior of the subject vehicle) as a result of this condition.
- This data was presented to the Chrysler Vehicle Regulations Committee on March 2, 2009 who decided to conduct a safety recall.

## DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER LLC RECALL J09

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

Chrysler will conduct a safety recall to re-route and stow the 115 volt auxiliary power outlet connector and pull the 25 amp fuse to remove power from this unused circuit. Chrysler expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and owners in March 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.