



November 3, 2009

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building, W45-306
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 2007 and 2008 model year Jeep Wrangler vehicles. The vehicles built with automatic transmissions were not equipped with a transmission fluid temperature warning system. Operating a vehicle under rigorous off road conditions will cause the vehicle's transmission fluid temperature to elevate. Continuous operation under such rigorous conditions may lead to a transmission failure. In cases where the limits of the vehicle are exceeded beyond reasonable usage over an extended period, the fluid could boil over and may come into contact with a hot engine or exhaust component and cause a fire.

Chrysler will conduct a safety recall to install a "HOTOIL" message in the Instrument Cluster and a chime indicating an elevated transmission fluid condition. Chrysler will provide owners with an Owner's Manual Addendum stating the purpose of the "HOTOIL" message and chime to include Caution and Warning statements regarding elevated transmission fluid temperature conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David D. Dillon".

for David D. Dillon

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall J30

cc: K.C. DeMeter, NHTSA

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC RECALL J30

Page 2

Submission Date: November 3, 2009

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make	Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Volume	Other
Jeep	Wrangler	2007 - 2008	June 2006 – July 2008	161,450 (estimated)	Automatic Transmission

Estimated percentage containing defect: 100%

Description of defect:

Vehicles built with an automatic transmission were not equipped with a transmission fluid temperature warning system.

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

- Beginning in October 2008, Chrysler received a report of a failed transmission from an overheat condition that resulted while driving off road.
- Subsequent engineering analysis confirmed that while operating a vehicle under rigorous off road conditions, a vehicle's transmission fluid temperature will elevate.
- Exceeding the limits of a vehicle beyond reasonable intended usage over an extended period will cause the transmission fluid to expel, and may allow it to come into contact with a hot exhaust component and cause a fire.
- July of 2009, China Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) initiated contact with Chrysler inquiring about 3 incidents allegedly resulting from transmission fluid overheat (2 determined to be non-related, 1 unverified – not available for inspection).
- On September 13, 2009, NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened a Preliminary Evaluation (PE09-037) to investigate allegations of transmission overheat conditions.
- An investigation of JK vehicles concluded that there is no design related defect that would cause the transmission to overheat under normal operating conditions.
- Warranty data and field reports support that a small number of transmission warranty is due to an overheat condition caused by extreme and/or abusive driving conditions.
- There are only a few field reports alleging transmission failures resulting from elevated temperatures.
- The prior Jeep Wrangler (TJ) body style provided a transmission temperature warning lamp.
- A warning system to alert the customer when transmission fluid has reached a critical operating temperature would significantly reduce potential for transmission failures.
- There has been no reported transmission failures related to overheat during normal operating

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC RECALL J30

Page 3

conditions.

- Chrysler is not aware of any injuries or fatalities as a result of this condition.
- This data was presented to the Chrysler Vehicle Regulations Committee on October 27, 2009 who decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

Chrysler will conduct a safety recall to install a "HOTOIL" message in the Instrument Cluster and a chime indicating an elevated transmission fluid condition. Chrysler will also provide owners with an Owner's Manual Addendum stating the purpose of the "HOTOIL" message and chime along with instructions with a Caution and Warning statements regarding elevated transmission fluid temperature conditions. Chrysler expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and owners in December 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.