



**RECEIVED**

By Recall Management Division at 8:40 am, Jul 30, 2010

July 29, 2010

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") *updated* 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 2008 through 2009 model year Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country vehicles.

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall on all affected vehicles to inspect the sliding door wire track wire assembly and the sliding door power drive unit wire assembly for damage, repair/replace as necessary, tie strap the two harnesses together and route the harnesses under the sliding door weather strip. *Chrysler plans to launch this campaign in October of 2010.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David D. Dillon".

David D. Dillon

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall k14

cc: Richard Boyd, NHTSA

# DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC RECALL J27

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**Submission date:** July 29, 2010

## Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

| Make(s)          | Model(s)                       | Model Year(s) | Inclusive Dates of Manufacture | Volume            | Other              |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Chrysler / Dodge | Town & Country / Grand Caravan | 2008 - 2009   | February 2007 – September 2009 | 284,831 estimated | Power Sliding Door |

**Estimated percentage containing defect:** unknown

## Description of defect:

A small percentage of the affected Chrysler Town & Country and Dodge Grand Caravan vehicles may have been built with an improperly routed wire harness that may have a condition where the lower sliding door hinge bracket can make contact and wear through the wire insulation. Contact with a 12V power feed circuit within the harness may cause a high resistive short circuit within the latch mechanism located inside of the sliding door. This defect could result in an overheated latch, and in some cases, a fire within the rear sliding door.

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

- In August of 2009, an engineering design related to improving the manufacturing process relocated the drive unit assembly harness from the B-pillar to the C- pillar at the start of the 2010 MY.
- It was later discovered that the change in location of the drive unit harness optimized the track assembly wire routing, which in turn addressed the cause of the latch fires which at the time was unknown.
- There have been 57 RT (48 for 2008 MY and 9 for 2009 MY) vehicles identified with varying build dates, mileage, and in-service dates with thermal damage primarily limited to areas within close proximity of the power sliding door latch assembly.
- The condition is has been experienced on both the left and right hand sides, but limited to vehicles equipped with a power sliding door.
- Chrysler Group, LLC is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to these issues.

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

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall on all affected vehicles to inspect the sliding door wire track wire assembly and the sliding door power drive unit wire assembly for damage, repair/replace as necessary, tie strap the two harnesses together and route the harnesses under the sliding door weather strip. Chrysler expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and owners *in October of 2010*.

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.