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October 7, 2010

10V-475
(3 Pages)

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 some 2010 model year Dodge Journey, Dodge Avenger, Dodge Challenger, Dodge Charger, Chrysler Sebring and Chrysler 300 as well as some 2011 model year Ram vehicles.

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall to inspect and replace as necessary the power steering pressure hoses on all affected vehicles.

Sincerely,

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

David D. Dillon

Enclosure: Information Report for Chrysler Recall K26

cc: Richard Boyd, NHTSA

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC RECALL K26

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Submission date: October 7, 2010

Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

Make(s)	Model(s)	Model Year(s)	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture	Volume	Assembly Plant(s)
Chrysler / Dodge	Sebring / Avenger (JS)	2010	July 28, 2010 – August 30, 2010	7,953 (estimated)	Sterling Heights
Chrysler / Dodge	300 / Charger (LX) & Challenger (LC)	2010	July 27, 2010 – August 26, 2010	5,668 (estimated)	Brampton
Dodge	Journey (JC)	2010	July 27, 2010 – August 30, 2010	5,418 (estimated)	Toluca
Ram	Light Duty Pickup (DS)	2011	June 24, 2010 – August 28, 2010	7,358 (estimated)	Warren and Saltillo Truck

Estimated percentage containing defect: unknown

Description of defect:

Some vehicles may experience a separation at the crimped end of the power steering pressure hose assembly resulting in power steering fluid expulsion and the risk of fire.

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

YH America South Carolina, LLC
109 Gillespie Dr.
Easley, South Carolina, 29640
859-873-2188

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

- YH America (YH) experienced two pressure hose separations in their continuing conformance (CC) impulse testing. The hose assemblies were produced on July 21, 2010 for DS (Ram) vehicles.
- The hose material had been changed from hypalon (3398), a Chlorosulfonated Polyethylene, to non-hypalon 3398CM, a chlorinated polyethylene material, due to a Dupont raw material manufacturing plant closing.
- DVP&R testing had shown the new 3398CM material to be acceptable, and the change was implemented on a Forever Requirement (FR) On August 2, 2010, a Chrysler 300 / Dodge Charger & Challenger (LC/LX) hose assembly separated during CC impulse testing.
- A yard hold was initiated, and Warren Truck and Brampton Assembly Plants held their

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC RECALL K26

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shipping yards.

- Investigation determined that the root cause of the issue was the 3398CM base hose material.
- The lot to lot variation of the hose material resulted in a percentage of the hose assemblies that could not sustain the maximum vehicle steering system pressures.
- Sterling Heights and Toluca Assembly Plants were then added to the yard hold and suspect population because some vehicles in these plants also utilized the suspect 3398CM base hose material.
- For each plant, only certain vehicle / engine build configurations were produced with the 3398CM base hose material.
- Chrysler Group, LLC is not aware of any complaints, accidents or injuries related to this issue.

Statement of measures to be taken to correct defect:

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall to inspect and replace as necessary the power steering pressure hoses on all affected Dodge Journey, Dodge Avenger, Dodge Challenger, Dodge Charger, Chrysler Sebring, Chrysler 300 and Ram vehicles. Chrysler expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and owners as soon as possible.

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.