



February 25, 2011

Mr. Claude Harris  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
Recall Management Division (NVS-215)  
Room: W48-302  
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Harris:

Attached is Chrysler Group LLC's ("Chrysler Group") *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 2011 model year Ram (1500) vehicles.

Chrysler Group will conduct a voluntary safety recall to *install an oil port insert into the rear axle* on all affected vehicles. *The update is to communicate a change in the remedy and to the planned dealer and customer mailing target date. This does not affect the number of vehicles involved as the quantity was based on the correct date.*

Sincerely,

David D. Dillon

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall K36

cc: Frank Boris, NHTSA

## DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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**Submission date:** February 25, 2011

### Identifying classification of vehicles potentially affected:

| Make(s) | Model(s) | Model Year(s) | Inclusive Dates of Manufacture | Volume             | Assembly Plant(s)                                          |
|---------|----------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ram     | 1500     | 2011          | September 2009 – December 2010 | 56,611 (estimated) | Saltillo Truck Assembly Plant, Warren Truck Assembly Plant |

**Estimated percentage containing defect:** unknown

### Description of defect:

Some Ram 1500 vehicles may experience a noise (growl, grind) coming from the rear axle bearing, which could eventually seize.

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

ZF Marysville LLC (“ZF”)  
2900 Busha Highway  
Marysville, MI 48040  
(734) 582-8011

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

- In early December, Chrysler became aware of 3 complaints in the northern U.S. for 2011 MY Ram axle noise / bearing failure were reported.
- On Dec. 3, 2010, plant yard holds were initiated for containment of new vehicles while further root cause analysis from field returned parts was conducted by Chrysler Engineering and ZF.
- The specified volume of lube oil in the C235 rear axle is a nominal lube fill of 71 oz; however, testing with 91 oz. of axle lube has shown to considerably improved lubrication and bearing heat management.
- Increasing the lube fill to 91 oz on all C235 axles not yet built and adding 20 oz. to those axles already built was implemented for vehicles with a build date of Dec 3, 2010 and later.
- As of Dec. 21, 2010, there been approximately 20 field reports alleging axle bearing noise or failure in northern U.S. The majority of axle failures in the field have occurred within 500 miles of driving.
- Chrysler Group, LLC is not aware of any crashes or injuries related to this issue.
- On December 21, 2010, this data was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee, who decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall.

## DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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

Chrysler Group will conduct a voluntary safety recall to *install an oil port insert into* the rear axle on all affected Ram vehicles. Chrysler Group expects to initiate national notification to both dealers and owners in *March of 2011*.

Chrysler Group 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 Group, 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.