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By Recall Management Division at 10:28 am, Nov 02, 2011

November 1, 2011

11V-528  
(4 Pages)

Ms. Nancy Lummen Lewis  
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 Ms. Lewis:

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 2008 – 2012 Jeep Wrangler Right Hand Drive (RHD) vehicles.

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall to remedy the vehicles as is yet to be defined. In the interim, Chrysler will also send notification to each owner indicating that, until the remedy is available, if an airbag light is illuminated in the owner's vehicle, the owner is encouraged to bring the vehicle in for a free diagnosis and clockspring replacement as required.

Sincerely,

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

David D. Dillon

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall L37

cc: Frank Borris, NHTSA

# DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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**Submission Date:** November 1, 2011

## **573.6(c)(1): Manufacturer's Name, Brand Name**

Chrysler Group LLC, Jeep

## **573.6(c)(2): Identification of Affected Vehicles**

Make(s)	Model(s)	Model Year(s)	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Jeep	Wrangler (RHD)	2008 - 2012	February 1, 2007 – October 10, 2011

## **573.6(c)(2)(iv): Component manufacturer name, address, telephone number, and country of origin:**

TRW Automotive  
12000 Tech Center Drive  
Livonia, MI 48150  
734-855-2371  
Country of Origin: USA

## **573.6(c)(3): Potentially Affected Vehicle Population**

5,334 (estimated)

## **573.6(c)(4): Percentage of Affected Vehicles**

100% (approximate)

## **573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect or Noncompliance**

Some vehicles may be equipped with driver's airbag clockspring assemblies that could experience a compromised airbag circuit resulting in an airbag lamp illumination, which indicates that the airbag may not deploy in the event of a crash.

## **573.6(c)(6): Chronology of Principal Events Leading to Determination of a Safety Defect**

- In May of 2011, PE11-019 was opened by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) concerning customer complaints of airbag lamp illuminations related to steering column clocksprings issues.

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- The investigation included 2007 – 2010 MY Jeep Wrangler (JK) vehicles.
- Chrysler's investigation determined that the condition was happening on domestic right hand drive (RHD) vehicles at a rate much greater than the left hand drive (LHD) vehicles and the exported RHD vehicles.
- Returned parts enabled Chrysler to determine that the vast majority of RHD clocksprings returned from the field exhibited high resistance on airbag circuit #1 on the clockspring's flexible conductor.
- It was determined that the high resistance was the result of circuit fatigue, caused by dust contamination of the grease applied to the flexible conductor, resulting in the conductor bending unnaturally during cycling.
- If the resistance of the circuit goes out of range in relation to the diagnostic parameters within the Occupant Restraint Module (ORC), the airbag lamp will illuminate indicating that the airbag may not deploy in the event of a crash.
- The root cause of the condition is due to the RHD US duty cycle (primarily mail delivery), which repeatedly exposes the clockspring to environmental conditions not often seen in comparable LHD US or RHD exported vehicles.
- Chrysler Group LLC is unaware of any accidents or injuries related to this condition.
- This information was presented to the Vehicle Regulations Committee on October 25, 2011, which decided to conduct a safety recall.

### **573.6(c)(7): Information Used in Determination of a Noncompliance**

N/A

### **573.6(c)(8): Description of Remedy**

Chrysler has not yet identified and is in the process of developing the remedy for the affected RHD Jeep Wranglers. Chrysler will notify owners when the remedy is available.

In the interim, Chrysler will also send notification to each owner indicating that, until the remedy is available, if an airbag light is illuminated in the owner's vehicle, the owner is encouraged to bring the vehicle in for a free diagnosis and clockspring replacement as required.

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 the original receipt and/or other adequate proof of payment to the company for confirmation of the expense.

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### **573.6(c)(10): Dealer and Owner Communications**

Chrysler plans to begin interim notification of owners in November of 2011. Chrysler will provide the owner and dealer letters when available.

### **573.6(c)(11): Manufacturer's Campaign Number**

Chrysler has assigned recall number L37 to this action.