



May 15, 2012

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 2010 model year Jeep Wrangler vehicles.

Chrysler Group will conduct a voluntary safety recall to replace the automatic transmission Skid Plate with an automatic transmission Skid Bar on all affected vehicles.

Sincerely,

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

David D. Dillon

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Recall M22

cc: Frank Borris, NHTSA

# DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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**Submission Date:** May 15, 2012

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

Chrysler Group LLC, Jeep Wrangler

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

Make(s)	Model(s)	Model Year(s)	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Jeep	Wrangler	2010	2010 model year Wrangler <u>automatic transmission</u> vehicles through July, 14 2010

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

N/A

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

67.872 (estimated)

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

100% (approximate)

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

Vehicles equipped with an automatic transmission are equipped with an exhaust system with less than optimal clearance to the transmission skid plate. If debris collects in this area and is not removed, the debris may contact the exhaust catalyst and cause a fire without warning.

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

- On March 28, 2012 NHTSA opened PE12-009 to request information regarding fire events in or near the engine compartment in 2010 model year Wrangler vehicles.
- Chrysler's investigation identified an elevated level of fire events on certain 2010 model year Wrangler vehicles, which was attributed to a design change of the exhaust system. The 2010 model year exhaust system changes resulted in less than optimal clearances between the exhaust catalyst and the automatic transmission skid plate. If debris collects in the area of the automatic transmission skid plate and is not removed, the 2010 model year exhaust system change increased the potential for an underbody debris fire.
- 2010 model year Wrangler vehicles equipped with a manual transmission are not equipped with the automatic transmission skid plate and therefore are not affected.
- Beginning on July 14, 2010, 2010 and subsequent model year vehicles were built with a skid bar to reduce weight, which later proved to reduce the potential for debris collection and underbody fire events.
- Chrysler is aware of at least 14 complaints in the subject vehicles of a fire originating in the area of the skid plate, most likely as a result of underbody debris.
- On May 8, 2012, Chrysler Group LLC decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall of the Affected Vehicles.

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

N/A

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

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall to replace the automatic transmission skid plate with a new automatic transmission skid bar on all Affected Vehicles.

Chrysler has a long standing 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 notification of dealers and owners as soon as possible. Chrysler will provide the dealer and owner letters when available.

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

Chrysler has assigned recall number M22 to this action.