



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 14, 2013

Mr. Reginald Modlin
Director-Regulatory Affairs
Chrysler Group LLC
800 Chrysler Drive CIMS-482-00-91
Auburn Hills, MI 48326-2757

NVS-215KS
13V-038

Subject: Rear Axle Pinion Nut May Loosen at Differential

Dear Mr. Modlin:

This letter serves to acknowledge Chrysler Group LLC's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

CHRYSLER/ASPEN/2009
DODGE/DAKOTA/2009-2011
DODGE/DURANGO/2009
DODGE/RAM 1500/2009-2012

Mfr's Report Date: February 5, 2013

NHTSA Campaign Number: 13V-038

Components:

POWER TRAIN:DRIVELINE:DIFFERENTIAL UNIT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 278,222

Problem Description:

Chrysler is recalling certain model year 2009-2012 Ram 1500 trucks manufactured from February 27, 2008, through June 30, 2009, and from December 1, 2009, through October 20, 2011; model year 2009-2011 Dodge Dakota trucks manufactured from February 27, 2007, through June 30, 2009, and from December 1, 2009, through September 30, 2011; model year 2009 Chrysler Aspen trucks manufactured from January 3, 2008, through December 18, 2008; and model year 2009 Dodge Durango trucks manufactured from January 3, 2008, through December 18, 2008. The rear axle pinion nut may loosen due to an undersized pinion spline that can allow relative motion between the nut and companion flange.

Consequence:

If the rear axle pinion nut loosens, the axle can lock up and cause a loss of vehicle control and/or a vehicle crash with little warning.

Remedy:

Chrysler will notify owners, and dealers will install a pinion nut retainer, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin during March 2013. Owners may contact Chrysler at 1-800-247-9753.

Notes:

This campaign is an expansion of a recall campaign 12V-474. Chrysler's recall campaign number is N08. Owners may also contact



the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

This recall was the subject of a preliminary evaluation, PE12-021, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-5227, or by email at kelly.schuler@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Timian", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement