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By Recall Management Division at 1:35 pm, Feb 13, 2013

February 13, 2013

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") *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 vehicles. *The update includes updated dates of manufacture, the correct model year for the 2009-2011 MY Dakota pickup, and updated vehicle volume. These changes are found in sections 573.6(c)(2) and 573.6(c)(3).*

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall to install a pinion nut retainer on all affected vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reginald R. Modlin".

Reginald R. Modlin

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Group LLC. Recall N08

cc: Frank Borris, NHTSA

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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Submission Date: February 13, 2013

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

Chrysler Group LLC, Ram, Dodge, Chrysler

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

Make(s)	Model(s)	Model Year(s)	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Ram	1500	2009-2012	February 27, 2008-June 30, 2009 and December 1, 2009-October 20, 2011
Dodge	Dakota	2009-2011	February 27, 2007-June 30, 2009 and December 1, 2009-September 30, 2011
Chrysler	Aspen	2009	January 3, 2008-December 18, 2008
Dodge	Durango	2009	January 3, 2008-December 18, 2008

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

Chrysler Group LLC
Detroit Axle Plant (no longer in operation)
1000 Chrysler Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

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

278,222 (estimated)

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

Unknown

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

Some vehicles may have been built with an axle pinion nut that can loosen, which can result in an axle lock up and cause a loss of vehicle control and/or a crash with little warning.

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

- On July 19, 2012, NHTSA opened PE 12-021 to investigate allegations of rear axle differential failures.
- A subsequent investigation determined that at the end of the 2009 MY production, there were instances of 9.25" axles built with pinion nuts that were missing the adhesive patch.
- Chrysler issued recall M34 to install a pinion nut retainer on the axles of vehicles built between July 1, 2009 and November 30, 2009.
- Further review of customer complaints and field reports shows pinion nut loosening complaints also exist for vehicles built outside the 5 month period covered by recall M34.
- Engineering analysis of field returned parts that have loosened found undersized pinion splines are a likely factor that contributes to the issue seen on 2009 and 2010 MY axles.
- There are approximately 351 CAIRs and 30 QNA field reports for 2009 and 2010 MY DS vehicles alleging axle failure resulting from the pinion nut loosening, excluding those already reported for recall M34.
- There are approximately 15 reports of accidents and no reports of minor injury in 2009 and 2010 MY DS vehicles related to this issue, excluding those already reported for recall M34.
- On January 29, 2013, Chrysler Group LLC decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall on all 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 install a pinion nut retainer.

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.

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

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Chrysler plans to begin notification of dealers and owners in March, 2013.
Chrysler will provide the dealer and owner letters when available.

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

Chrysler has assigned recall number N08 to this action.