

**CHRYSLER**

December 5, 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:

The following information is submitted pursuant to the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573.6, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, which contains details of a safety defect in vehicles as determined by Chrysler Group LLC.

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

Chrysler Group LLC, Chrysler, Dodge, RAM

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

Make(s)	Model(s)	Model Year(s)	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Chrysler	300 AWD	2013	November 24, 2012 to February 16, 2013
Dodge	Charger AWD	2013	November 24, 2012 to February 12, 2013
RAM	1500 4x4	2013	January 12, 2013 to June 27, 2013

The determination of the recall population is described in Section 573.6(c)(6).

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

ZF Group North American Operations
15811 Centennial Drive
Northville, MI 48168
Country of Origin: Germany
(734) 416-2313

573 REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

Page 2

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

4,194 (estimated)

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

Unknown

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

Some Dodge Charger, Chrysler 300, and RAM 1500 vehicles, equipped with a ZF all-wheel drive ("AWD") 8HP45 automatic transmission, may experience a fracture of the transmission output shaft, resulting in the loss of motive power and possible unintended vehicle movement after exiting the vehicle. Fracture of the transmission output shaft is the end result of cracks formed during forging and heat treatment of the output shaft.

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

- On September 20, 2013, based on information from its quality organization, Chrysler opened an investigation into cracked output shafts on the ZF AWD 8HP45 automatic transmission.
- Originally, the transmission output shaft was designed as a two-piece, friction welded component. Later, the output shaft changed to a one-piece, two-stage, cold formed design.
- In February 2013, the first known fractured transmission output shaft in a suspect vehicle was reported in the field.
- To reduce the forming stresses and, thus, alleviate the cracking issue, the output shaft was changed from a two-stage to a single-stage cold forming process.
- From September through November 2013, the investigation focused on understanding root cause and scope of affected vehicles.
- Chrysler's investigation concluded that the transmission output shaft may develop micro-cracks during the forging process that was undetected at the forging supplier during ultrasonic testing. Subsequent heat treatment may cause the crack to grow and become visible when sectioning the part.
- As of November 19, 2013, there are approximately 13 CAIRs, 0 VOQs, and 30 field reports related to this issue.
- As of November 19, 2013, Chrysler is unaware of any accidents or injuries potentially related to this issue.
- On November 26, 2013, Chrysler determined, through the Vehicle Regulations Committee, to conduct a voluntary safety recall.

573.6(c)(8)(i): Description of Remedy

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall to inspect all affected vehicles and replace the transmission as necessary.

573 REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

Page 3

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)(8)(ii): Dealer and Owner Communication

Chrysler plans to begin notification of dealers and owners in January 2014. Chrysler will provide the dealer and owner letters when available.

573.6(c)(10): Submission of Recall Communications

Chrysler will provide the dealer and owner letters when available.

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

Chrysler has assigned recall number N65 to this action.

Sincerely,



Kristin J. Kolodge
Product Investigations and Campaigns Senior Manager

cc: Frank Borris, NHTSA