



January 24, 2014

Ms. Nancy L. Lewis  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Reference: NHTSA Identification Number 13V-529

Enclosed are representative copies of communications relating to the 2008-2012 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. Chrysler notified dealers on December 10, 2013 and completed the owner notification mailing on January 16, 2014. The exact number of vehicles involved in the recall is 264,757 in the United States and 300 in the United States Territories.

This completes Chrysler's package of information for this recall as required by the Defects Report Regulation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Kolodge".

Kristin J. Kolodge  
Regulatory Affairs – Product Investigations & Campaigns

Enclosure: Dealer and Owner Letter for Recall N49

cc: F. Borris



Revised January 2014

Dealer Service Instructions for:

## **Safety Recall N49 / NHTSA 13V-529**

### **Left Outer Tie Rod Assembly**

**NOTE: An inspection of the steering linkage type has been added to this recall. The steering linkage inspection should be performed in the write-up area.**

#### **Models**

2008	(DH) Dodge RAM Truck (1500 series 4x4 Mega Cab)
2008 - 2009	(DH) Dodge RAM Truck (2500 / 3500 series 4x4)
2008 - 2009	(D1) Dodge RAM Truck (3500 series 4x4)
2010 - 2012	(D2) Dodge RAM Truck (3500 series 4x4)
2010 - 2012	(DJ) Dodge RAM Truck (2500 series 4x4)
2008 - 2010	(DC) Dodge RAM Truck (3500 Cab Chassis)
2011 - 2012	(DD) Dodge RAM Truck (3500 Cab Chassis)

**NOTE:** This recall applies only to the above vehicles built between February 14, 2008 and December 22, 2012 (MDH 021400 through 122218).

**IMPORTANT:** Some of the involved vehicles may be in dealer used vehicle inventory. Dealers should complete this recall service on these vehicles before retail delivery. Dealers should also perform this recall on vehicles in for service. Involved vehicles can be determined by using the VIP inquiry process.

#### **Subject**

The left tie rod ball stud on about 264,000 of the above vehicles may fracture under certain driving conditions. This could cause a loss of directional control and/or a crash without warning.

**Repair**

The steering linkage assembly must be inspected and replaced if required.

**NOTE:** The initial steering linkage inspection process can be done by write-up personnel in the write-up area (see Section A. of the service procedure). Vehicles found with original style steering linkage can be immediately returned to the customer.

**Parts Information**

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>CBUEN491AA</b>	<b>Steering Linkage Package</b>

Each package contains the following components:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Tie Rod, Left
1	Tie Rod, Right
1	Sleeve, Adjuster
2	Clamp, Adjuster Sleeve
2	Bolt, Adjuster Sleeve
2	Nut, Adjuster Sleeve

<u>Part Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>CBUEN492AA</b>	<b>Steering Linkage Installation Package</b>

Each package contains the following components:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	Nut, Hex Lock
1	Nut, Hex Flange

**Each dealer** to whom vehicles in the recall were assigned will receive enough steering linkages to service about **10%** of those vehicles.

**Special Tools**

The following special tool is required to perform this repair:

- C4150 Puller, Tie Rod



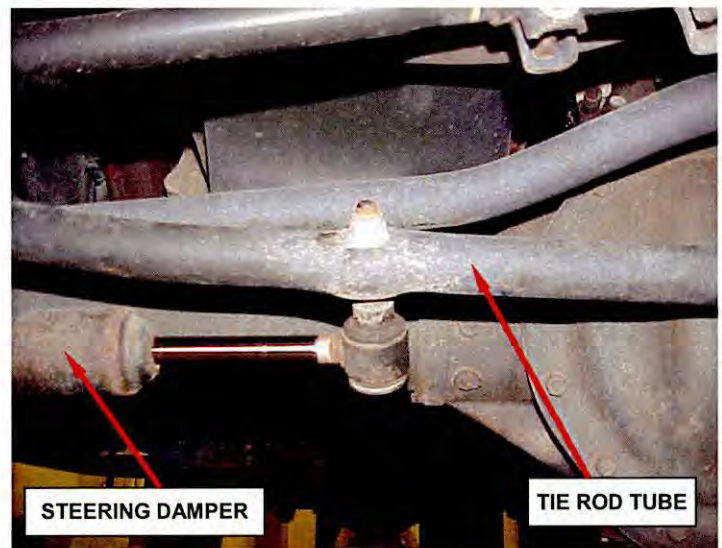
**Service Procedure**

**NOTE:** The initial steering linkage inspection process (Section A. of the service procedure) can be done by write-up personnel in the write-up area. Vehicles found with the steering linkage shown in Figure 1 can be immediately returned to the customer. See the “Completion Reporting and Reimbursement” section of this recall for special claims processing information.

**A. Inspect Steering Linkage Type**

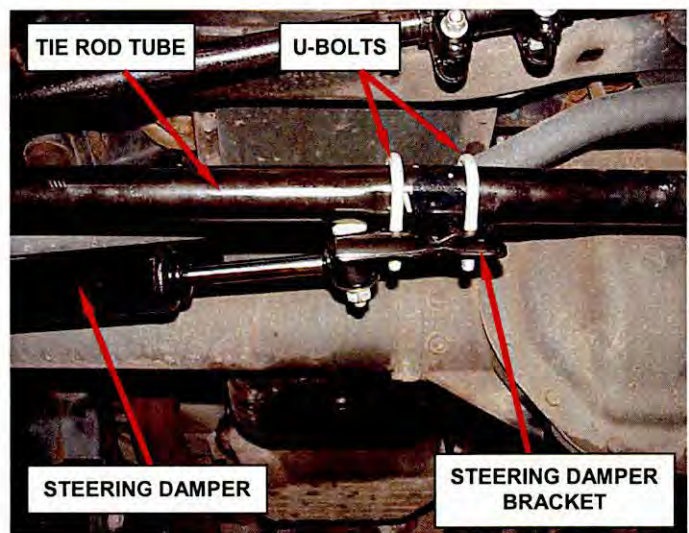
1. Look under the front of the vehicle and inspect the steering linkage at the steering damper mounting point:

- If the steering damper mounts to the tie rod tube as shown in Figure 1, the steering linkage does not require replacement. Return the vehicle to the customer.



**Figure 1 – Steering Linkage**

- If the steering damper mounts to the tie rod tube as shown in Figure 2, the steering linkage must be replaced. Continue with **Section B. Replace Steering Linkage**.



**Figure 2 – Steering Linkage**

## Service Procedure

### B. Replace Steering Linkage

1. Lift the vehicle on an appropriate hoist.
2. Remove and save the front wheels.
3. Remove and discard the steering damper nut (Figure 3)
4. Disconnect the steering damper from the steering linkage.
5. Remove and discard the drag link nut at the right tie rod (Figure 4).
6. Using special tool C4150, separate the drag link from the right tie rod.

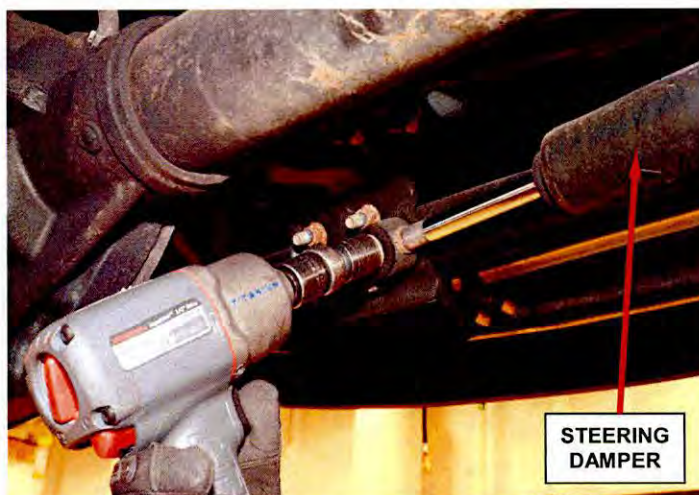


Figure 3 – Steering Damper Nut

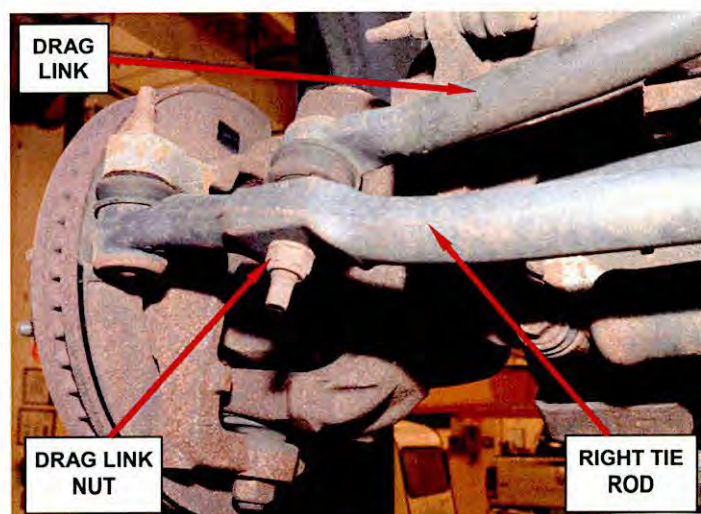


Figure 4 – Drag Link Nut

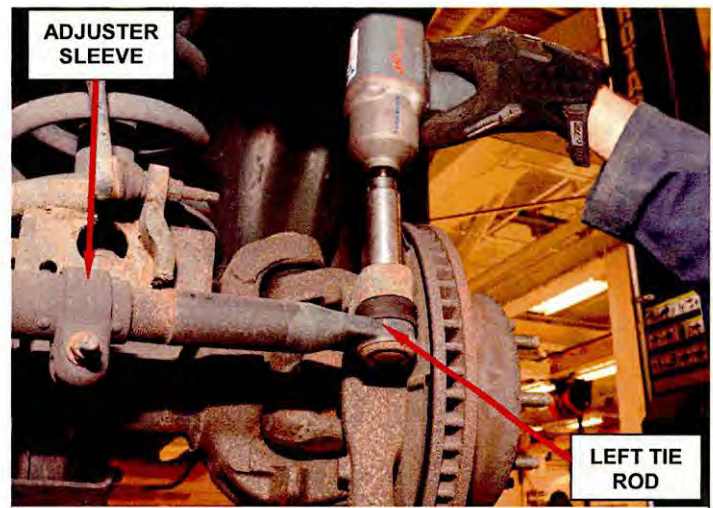


**Service Procedure (Continued)**

7. Remove and discard the left tie rod nut (Figure 5).

8. Using special tool C4150, separate left tie rod end from the steering knuckle.

9. Remove and discard the right tie rod nut (Figure 6).



**Figure 5 – Left Tie Rod Nut**

10. Using special tool C4150, separate the right tie rod end from the steering knuckle.

11. Remove and discard the right and left tie rod assembly.

12. Remove and discard the tie rod end boot protectors from the new steering linkage.

13. Remove all shipping labels from the new steering linkage.

14. With the help of an assistant, place the new steering linkage into position and start the new tie rod end nuts.



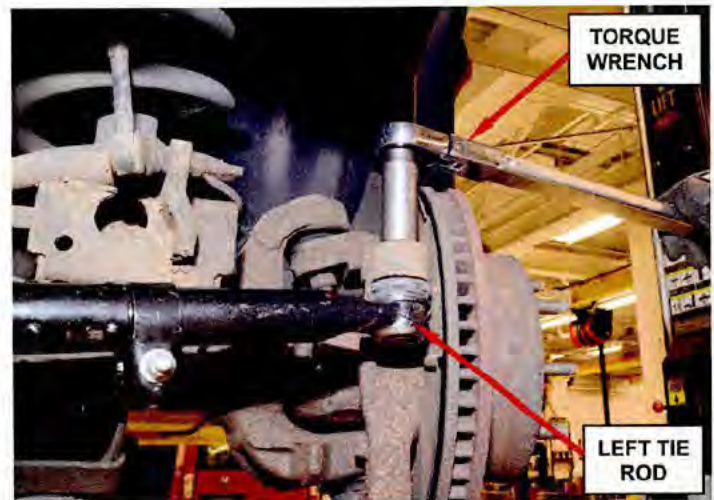
**Figure 6 – Right Tie Rod Nut**



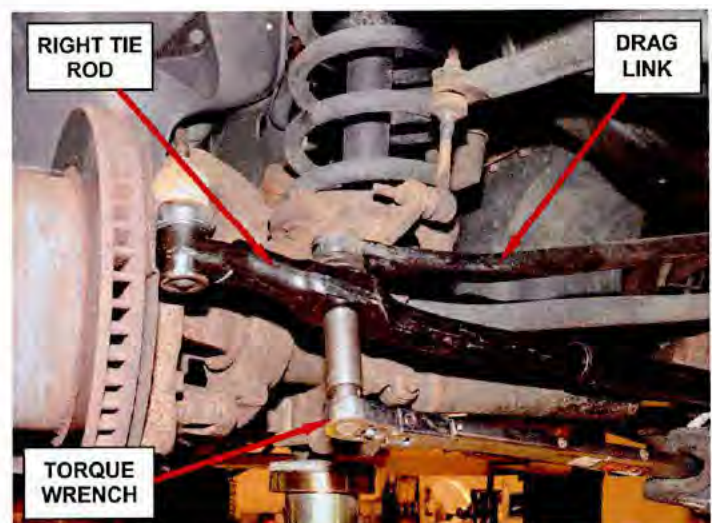
**Service Procedure (Continued)**

15. Tighten the new right and left tie rod nuts to 80 ft. lbs. (108 N·m) (Figure 7).
16. Connect the drag link to the right tie rod end (Figure 8). Tighten the new drag link retaining nut to 96 ft. lbs. (130 N·m).
17. Connect the steering damper to the new steering linkage. Tighten the new steering damper nut to 60 ft. lbs. (81 N·m).
18. Install the front wheels.
  - Lug Nut 9/16 x 18 with 60° Cone (1500) 130 ft. lbs. (176 N·m).
  - Lug Nut 9/16 x 18 with 60° Cone (2500, 3500 – Single Rear Wheel) 140 ft. lbs. (190 N·m).
  - Lug Nut 9/16 x 18 with Flat Washer (3500 – Dual Rear Wheel) 145 ft. lbs. (197 N·m).
19. Lower the vehicle from the hoist.
20. Set the toe-in and center the steering wheel following the wheel alignment machine manufacturer's instructions.

**NOTE:** Toe should be set to +0.20° total toe on all models and the adjuster sleeves must be hanging straight down with the sleeve bolts tightened to 45 ft. lbs. (61 N·m).



**Figure 7 – Tighten Tie Rod Nut  
(Left Side Shown)**



**Figure 8 – Tighten Drag Link Nut**

**Completion Reporting and Reimbursement**

Claims for vehicles that have been serviced must be submitted on the DealerCONNECT Claim Entry Screen located on the Service tab. Claims submitted will be used by Chrysler to record recall service completions and provide dealer payments.

Use the following labor operation number and time allowance:

	<b>Labor Operation Number</b>	<b>Time Allowance</b>
Inspect steering linkage in write-up area	19-N4-91-81	0.0 hours
Replace steering linkage, set toe and center steering wheel	19-N4-91-82	1.1 hours

Add the cost of the recall parts package plus applicable dealer allowance to your claim.

**FOR VEHICLES INSPECTED IN THE WRITE UP AREA:** Enter “INSPECT” in the part number section of your claim with a quantity of one (1). Enter \$5.00 WITH NO MARK-UP for reimbursement of steering linkage inspection performed in the write up area.

NOTE: See the Warranty Administration Manual, Recall Claim Processing Section, for complete recall claim processing instructions.

**Dealer Notification**

To view this notification on DealerCONNECT, select “Global Recall System” on the Service tab, then click on the description of this notification.



**Owner Notification and Service Scheduling**

All involved vehicle owners known to Chrysler are being notified of the service requirement by first class mail. They are requested to schedule appointments for this service with their dealers. A generic copy of the owner letter is attached.

Enclosed with each owner letter is an Owner Notification postcard to allow owners to update our records if applicable.

**Vehicle Lists, Global Recall System, VIP and Dealer Follow Up**

All involved vehicles have been entered into the DealerCONNECT Global Recall System (GRS) and Vehicle Information Plus (VIP) for dealer inquiry as needed.

GRS provides involved dealers with an updated VIN list of their incomplete vehicles. The owner's name, address and phone number are listed if known. Completed vehicles are removed from GRS within several days of repair claim submission.

To use this system, click on the “**Service**” tab and then click on “**Global Recall System.**” Your dealer's VIN list for each recall displayed can be sorted by: those vehicles that were unsold at recall launch, those with a phone number, city, zip code, or VIN sequence.

**Dealers must perform this repair on all unsold vehicles before retail delivery.** Dealers should also use the VIN list to follow up with all owners to schedule appointments for this repair.

*Recall VIN lists may contain confidential, restricted owner name and address information that was obtained from the Department of Motor Vehicles of various states. Use of this information is permitted for this recall only and is strictly prohibited from all other use.*

**Additional Information**

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing this action, please contact your Service and Parts District Manager.

Customer Services / Field Operations  
Chrysler Group LLC