

January 7, 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-555

Enclosed are representative copies of communications relating to the 2013 model year vehicles involved in the referenced recall. Chrysler notified dealers on December 13, 2013 and completed the owner notification mailing on December 19, 2013. The exact number of vehicles involved in the recall is 374 in the United States and zero in the United States Territories.

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

Sincerely,

Kristin J. Kolodge

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Regulatory Affairs – Product Investigations & Campaigns

Enclosure: Dealer and Owner Letter for Recall N61

cc: F. Borris





December 2013

Dealer Service Instructions for:

# Safety Recall N61 / NHTSA 13V-555 Seat Mounted Side Airbag Module

#### Models

2013 (PF) Dodge Dart

NOTE: This recall applies only to the above vehicles equipped with a "Mopar 13" upgrade package (sales code AEJ) built from May 10, 2013 through August 24, 2013 (MDH 051002 through 082412).

IMPORTANT: Some of the involved vehicles may be in dealer 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 seat mounted side airbag module on about 370 of the above vehicles may not have been inserted into the seat cover intensifier sleeve (pouch) prior to being secured to the seatback frame. This may affect the performance of the seat side airbag during certain side impact events.

#### Repair

Both front seat mounted side airbag modules must be inspected to insure proper installation into the seat cover intensifier sleeve (pouch).

## **Parts Information**

No parts are required to perform this service procedure.

# **Special Tools**

No special tools are required to perform this service procedure.

#### **Service Procedure**

WARNING: TO AVOID SERIOUS OR FATAL INJURY, DISABLE THE SUPPLEMENTAL RESTRAINT SYSTEM (SRS) BEFORE ATTEMPTING THIS REPAIR PROCEDURE.

DISCONNECT AND ISOLATE THE BATTERY NEGATIVE (GROUND)

CABLE, THEN WAIT TWO MINUTES FOR THE SYSTEM CAPACITOR TO DISCHARGE BEFORE PERFORMING SERVICE. THIS IS THE ONLY SURE WAY TO DISABLE THE SRS. FAILURE TO TAKE THE



Figure 1 – Plastic Trim Covers

RESULT IN ACCIDENTAL AIRBAG DEPLOYMENT.

- 1. Move the front seats to the fully forward position.
- 2. Disconnect and isolate the negative battery cable.

PROPER PRECAUTIONS COULD

- 3. Remove and save the right and left plastic trim covers from the back of each front seat (Figure 1).
- 4. Remove and save the right and left side cover retaining screws from both front seats (Figure 2).



Figure 2 - Side Cover Retaining Screws

- 5. Remove and save the left seat outer side trim cover on the left seat (Figure 3).
- 6. Using a trim stick, remove and save the retaining screw cover from the right seat recliner handle (Figure 4).
- 7. Remove and save the three screws from the right seat recliner handle (Figure 4).
- 8. Remove and save the right seat recliner handle and lumbar adjustment handle (Figure 4).



Figure 3 – Left Seat Outer Side Trim Cover

9. Remove and save the right seat outer side trim cover.

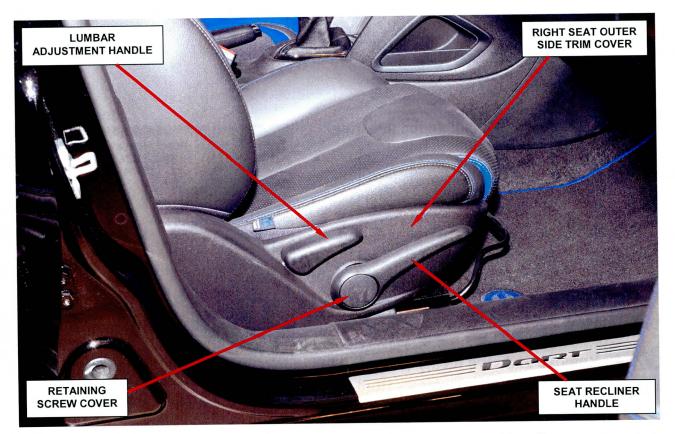


Figure 4 - Right Seat Recliner and Lumbar Adjustment Handles

- 10. Unzip the outer zipper on both seatbacks.
- 11. Partially remove the outer seat bolster cover from both front seats and inspect the seat mounted side airbag module (Figure 5).
  - ➤ If the seat mounted side airbag module is inside the yellow pouch on both seats, the seat mounted side airbag modules were installed correctly. Reassemble both front seats and return the vehicle to the customer.
  - ➤ If the yellow pouch is behind the seat mounted side airbag module on one or both front seats, continue with Step 12 of this procedure.



Figure 5 – Correctly Installed Seat Mounted Side Airbag Module (right seat shown)



Figure 6 – Headrest Guide Release Tab

- 12. Remove the seat(s) from the vehicle.
- 13. Remove and save the seat headrest(s).
- 14. Remove and save the plastic headrest guides (Figure 6).

NOTE: Push down on the seat material around the headrest plastic guide to expose the headrest plastic guide release tab (Figure 6).

- 15. Remove the inner seat cover(s).
- 16. Unzip the inner seatback zipper(s).
- 17. Disengage the lower seatback white "J" clip(s).
- 18. Pull the seatback cover(s) up and out of the way.

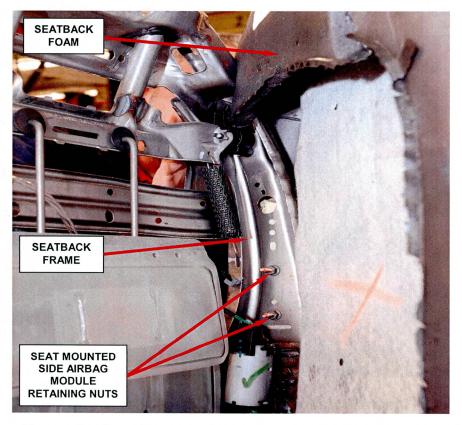


Figure 7 – Seat Mounted Side Airbag Module Retaining Nuts (Front View)

- 19. Pull up the seatback foam to gain access to the seat mounted side mounted side airbag module retaining nuts.
- 20. Remove and save the two seat mounted side airbag module retaining nuts (Figure 7).
- 21. Carefully lift the seat airbag module orange electrical locking devise and then disconnect the yellow module electrical connector (Figure 8).
- 22. Remove the seat mounted side airbag module from the seatback frame.



Figure 8 – Orange Airbag Connector

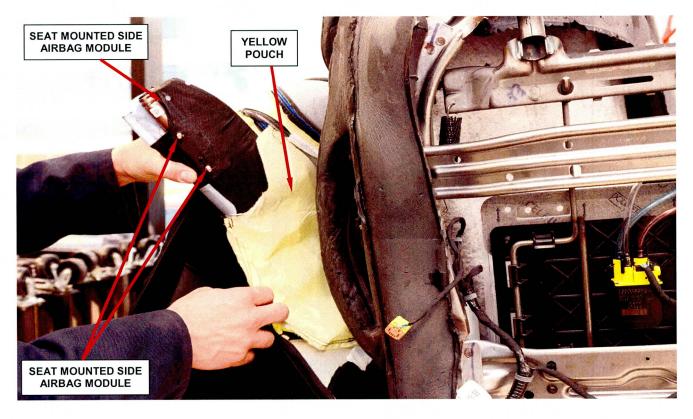


Figure 9 – Insert Seat Mounted Side Airbag Module into Yellow Pouch

23. Place the seat mounted side airbag module into the yellow pouch (Figure 9).

CAUTION: Make sure the seat mounted side airbag module studs are protruding through the two holes in the yellow pouch (Figure 10).

24. Connect the seat mounted side airbag module connector to the module and engage the orange locking feature on the electrical connector. Then place the seat mounted side airbag module into position on the seat frame.

NOTE: Ensure that the reset button on the seat airbag module is pressed down.

25. Install the two seat mounted side airbag module retaining nuts and tighten to 50 in. lbs. (5.5 N·m).



Figure 10 – Seat Mounted Side Airbag Module Studs

26.	Reassemble the seat(s) using the following procedure:		
	a. Pull the seatback foam down into position.		
	b. Pull the seatback cover over the seatback foam.		
	c. Zip all zippers on the seatback(s).		
	d. Attach the lower seatback white "J" clip(s) from the bottom of the leather to the frame.		
	e. Install the plastic inner and outer side trim cover(s) onto the seat(s).		
	f. For right side seat, install the recliner handle and lumbar adjustment handle.		
	g. Install the two plastic rear trim covers on the back of each front seat.		
27.	Install the seat(s) into the vehicle.		
28.	Install the plastic headrest guides.		
29.	Install the seat headrest(s).		

30. Connect the negative battery cable.

#### **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 one of the following labor operation numbers and time allowances:

	Labor Operation <u>Number</u>	Time <u>Allowance</u>
Inspect right and left seat mounted side airbag module	23-N6-11-81	0.5 hours
Inspect right and left seat mounted side airbag module and install module into seat pouch (one seat)	23-N6-11-82	1.1 hours
Inspect right and left seat mounted side airbag module and install module into seat pouch (two seats)	23-N6-11-82	1.7 hours

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

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 <u>updated</u> VIN list of <u>their incomplete</u> 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 <u>must</u> perform this repair on all unsold vehicles <u>before</u> 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