

FCA US LLC Chronology
Mopar Canvas Seat Cover
Submitted on May 10, 2016

- On February 2, 2016, FCA US LLC (“FCA US”) Mopar Engineering alerted the FCA US Vehicle Safety and Regulatory Compliance (“VSRC”) organization that the canvas seat covers designed for use in RAM Pick-up trucks may affect the seat thorax airbag performance. The RAM 3500, 4500 and 5500 Cab Chassis Heavy Duty (“DD/DP”) model trucks are not affected because these vehicles do not receive seats with thorax airbags installed. Mopar issued a new model block to prevent the canvas seat cover kits from being shipped from depots to dealerships.
- On February 3, 2016, FCA US Mopar Engineering provided a set of the canvas seat covers for installation trial on a RAM vehicle. On February 11, 2016, a meeting was held between the FCA US VSRC and FCA US Seat Engineering to review the concern of how the canvas seat covers might affect seat airbag deployment. The FCA US VSRC recommended that FCA US Mopar Engineering place a stop sale on these canvas seat covers for RAM trucks. Mopar records indicate there were approximately 253 canvas seat cover sets sold to customers at this time.
- On February 23, 2016, a follow-up meeting was held between the FCA US VSRC and FCA US Restraints Engineering to understand their position on the canvas seat cover installation over the seat airbag. FCA US Restraints Engineering indicated this may impede airbag deployment and testing would have to be conducted to determine if the deployment would meet FCA US engineering safety requirements.
- On March 4, 2016, a follow-up meeting was held to review a test plan for the seats to determine which tests needed to be conducted and how many seats were needed.
- On March 9, 2016, four sets of RAM Truck seats were ordered to conduct seat airbag deployment testing of the canvas seat covers on a production seat. Four tests were planned: One baseline test, two tests with the canvas seat cover installed properly and one test with the left cover installed on the right seat. This test was recommended due to insufficient clarity on installation instructions.
- On April 1, 2016, deployment testing was completed on the four seats and the final results were provided. The testing verified that the seat airbag deployment was hindered by the canvas seat covers.
- On April 4, 2016, FCA US Mopar Engineering started the process of notifying FCA US Mopar Quality to purge the FCA US Mopar system of the remaining canvas seat covers in the system. Change Notice (“CN”) #60404-V07 has been initiated to authorize a purge of the canvas seat covers from the FCA US Mopar system.
- On April 26, 2016, FCA US Mopar Engineering provided the latest sales list which shows approximately 487 canvas seat covers kits were shipped from FCA US Mopar depots to dealerships in the U.S. and Canada from October 15, 2015 to April, 26, 2016, 346 US, 42 CAN.
- During design and development of the canvas seat cover, an assessment was made by FCA US Mopar Engineering and FCA US engineering that the seat airbag would have equivalent performance with the canvas seat cover installed. The root cause is that the validation plan for the canvas seat covers did not include seat side airbag deployment.
- The suspect period was established as October 15, 2015, when the canvas seat cover was made available for sale to present.
- As of April 29, 2016, FCA US identified zero CAIRs, VOQs or field reports related to this issue.
- As of April 29, 2016, total warranty is at 0c/1000
- On February 2, 2016, a new model block was issued on these canvas seat covers to Mopar depots on April 15, 2016, a stop sale/return request was issued to dealers.
- CN #60404-V07 is pending to authorize a purge of the canvas seat covers from the Mopar system.
- On May 3, 2016, FCA US determined, through the Vehicle Regulations Committee, to conduct a voluntary equipment safety recall of the affected vehicles.