

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

17V-820

Manufacturer Name : Chrysler (FCA US LLC)

Submission Date : JUN 12, 2018

NHTSA Recall No. : 17V-820

Manufacturer Recall No. : T80



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Chrysler (FCA US LLC)

Address : 800 Chrysler Drive
CIMS 482-00-91 Auburn Hills MI
48326-2757

Company phone : 1-800-853-1403

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 16,900

Estimated percentage with defect : 10 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2005-2005 Dodge Dakota

Vehicle Type :

Body Style : PICKUP TRUCK

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Some 2005 MY Dodge Dakota vehicles equipped with heated seats (Sales Code JPM) may experience overheating of the driver or passenger seat cushion or seat back resulting in thermal damage to the seat.

The recall vehicle population includes all vehicles manufactured within the specified period equipped with heated seats (Sales Code JPM). Scope was determined to be all vehicles built in 2005 MY containing a unique heated seat control system. Similar vehicles not affected by this recall have an algorithmic time-based control system which ramps down power to the heated seat over time. The recalled carbon element pad, coupled with the 2005 MY heated seat control system, is not used on any other FCA US LLC ("FCA US") vehicles not included in this recall.

Production Dates : MAY 17, 2004 - JUN 24, 2005

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Some 2005 MY Dodge Dakota vehicles equipped with heated seats (Sales Code JPM) may experience overheating of the driver or passenger seat cushion or seat back due to fatigue failures in the carbon element. Fatigue failures of the carbon element can cause hot spots to develop which can propagate into burn holes in the seat cushion or open flames in the interior of the vehicle. The heated seat control system used in these 2005 MY Dodge Dakota vehicles cannot detect these hot spots that cause thermal damage to the seat and will not shut down automatically.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In the event of a hot spot in the heating element, a high resistance electrical connection can ensue. This may result in elevated seat temperatures, a burn hole in the seat or a fire in the vehicle. Any of these consequences may increase the risk of occupant injury. Occurrences of this defect will be preceded by excessive heat and a burning odor; should the vehicle occupant (s) not heed these warnings it may result in a burn injury or a fire in the vehicle.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Excessive heat/odors

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

On September 13, 2017, the FCA US Vehicle Safety and Regulatory Compliance ("VSRC") organization opened an investigation as the result of the identification of a potential trend.

During the week of September 25, 2017, the FCA US VSRC conducted design reviews with FCA US engineering.

On October 17, 2017, the FCA US VSRC and engineering teams met with the heated seat carbon element pad

supplier to discuss design parameters of the pad.

During October and November 2017, FCA US conducted a system-level evaluation of the 2005 MY heated seat system, in comparison to other models' heated seat systems and read across, which revealed that the heated seat pad itself was used in other, similar vehicles, however the heated seat control system used in the 2005 MY Dodge Dakota was unique.

On November 28, 2017, the FCA US VSRC and engineering teams held a design review to understand the 2005 MY heated seat system functionality. Through this design review, it was confirmed that the 2005 MY Dodge Dakota uses switches that do not return to the OFF position automatically based on time in use or current draw, and as such, may remain active indefinitely anytime that the ignition is in the ON position for a given ignition cycle.

On December 1-6, 2017, the FCA US VSRC was informed of an FCA US employee who had experienced a heated seat pad issue with his 2005 MY Dodge Dakota vehicle, and then inspected and tested the employee-owned vehicle in an FCA US electrical laboratory. FCA US VSRC was able to reproduce the failure in the employee-owned vehicle.

On December 18, 2017, FCA US determined, through the Vehicle Regulations Committee, to conduct a voluntary safety recall of the affected vehicles.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : FCA US will conduct a Voluntary Safety Recall on all affected vehicles to enhance the seat heating system to include updated control features.

FCA US 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, FCA US, 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.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Part Name: Pad, heater, seat cushion
Part Description: Seat Heater Pad
Part Number: 05000023AA

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : NR

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : **06/12/2018: FCA US will notify dealers and begin notifying owners on or about 11/15/2018 with the final owner letter.

**12/20/2017: FCA US will notify dealers and begin notifying owners on

or about 02/08/2018.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : FEB 08, 2018 - FEB 08, 2018

Planned Owner Notification Date : FEB 08, 2018 - FEB 08, 2018

* NR - Not Reported