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Symptom/Vehicle Issue: Tailgate Ajar Indicator Light Is On And Or High Effort Required To Close And Latch The Tailgate

Discussion:



High or difficult closing effort can be caused by a striker setting or flush mismatch between the Tailgate and the Tailgate opening of the pickup box when the striker / latch is improperly adjusted. The striker / latch may require adjustment to optimize flush appearance and closing effort. Improperly adjusted latches may cause one latch to not fully engage unless the Tailgate is slammed shut. The ajar switch is on the right-side tail gate latch only. Verify the customers concern by using the following procedure.

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Fig 2 closing latch

1 - Confirm latch function -

- With tailgate open, using screwdriver actuate the latch(s) (Figures 2).
- If tail gate ajar light on dash turns off DO NOT replace latch.
- If the ajar light does not turn off check electrical connection and re-test.
- If electrical connection is good and latch ajar still does not turn off, then replace right side latch.

Repair:

1. Actuate the tailgate handle to open the latches before closing the tailgate.
2. Adjustment of strikers
 - Assess flush condition of tailgate to box on both sides. (Figure 4)

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- Make sure up / down position of both strikers hits the center of the latch opening. This can be seen visually by bringing the tailgate up to the striker on each side. A striker binding on the top or bottom latch opening can bind and prevent it from opening. Adjust each striker up/down if required to center it to the latch.
- With a China marker or grease pen mark striker location.
- Adjust right side striker aft such that both latches engage when pushing on tailgate from the center.
- If the latches are not latching simultaneously then the left side striker may need to be moved forward to reduce the closing effort.
- Secure the striker to the torque specified in Tech Connect. 35NM 26FtLbs.



Fig 4. Over flush tail gate

<<<Note>>> The goal of this repair is to minimize the force required to fully latch the tailgate. One side of the tailgate may be slightly under flush relative to the other side but within specification.

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