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By Recall Management Division at 1:29 pm, Oct 02, 2012



CHRYSLER

12V-474

3 Pages

October 2, 2012

Ms. Nancy Lummen Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
Room: W48-302
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Attached is Chrysler Group LLC's ("Chrysler") Defect Information Report, complying with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Reports, which contains details of a potential safety related defect in vehicles.

Chrysler Group will conduct a voluntary safety recall to install a pinion nut retainer on all affected vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David D. Dillon".

David D. Dillon

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Group LLC. Recall M34

cc: Frank Borris, NHTSA

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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Submission Date: October 2, 2012

573.6(c)(1): Manufacturer's Name, Brand Name

Chrysler Group LLC, Ram

573.6(c)(2): Identification of Affected Vehicles

Make(s)	Model(s)	Model Year(s)	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Ram	1500	2009-2010	July 1, 2009 and November 30, 2009
Dodge	Dakota	2009-2010	July 1, 2009 and November 30, 2009

573.6(c)(2)(iv): Component manufacturer name, address, telephone number, and country of origin:

Chrysler Group LLC
Detroit Axle Plant (no longer in operation)
1000 Chrysler Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

573.6(c)(3): Potentially Affected Vehicle Population

44,300 (estimated)

573.6(c)(4): Percentage of Affected Vehicles

Unknown

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect or Noncompliance

Some vehicles may have been built with an axle pinion nut that can loosen, which can result in an axle lock up and cause a loss of vehicle control and/or a crash with little warning.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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573.6(c)(6): Chronology of Principal Events Leading to Determination of a Safety Defect

- On July 19, 2012, NHTSA opened PE 12-021 to investigate allegations of rear axle differential failures.
- A subsequent investigation determined that at the end of the 2009 MY production, there were instances of 9.25" axles built with pinion nuts that were missing the adhesive patch.
- A review of customer complaints and field reports shows a high number of rear axle failure complaints for vehicles built between July 1, 2009 and November 30, 2009. A review of the narratives indicates that the conditions were occurring as a result of a loosening pinion nut.
- There have been approximately 168 CAIRs and 17 QNA field reports during the recall period alleging axle failure resulting from the pinion nut loosening.
- On September 25, 2012, Chrysler Group LLC decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall of the affected vehicles.

573.6(c)(7): Information Used in Determination of a Noncompliance

N/A

573.6(c)(8): Description of Remedy

Chrysler will conduct a voluntary safety recall to install a pinion nut retainer.

Chrysler 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, Chrysler, 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.

573.6(c)(10): Dealer and Owner Communications

Chrysler plans to begin notification of dealers and owners in November of 2012. Chrysler will provide the dealer and owner letters when available.

573.6(c)(11): Manufacturer's Campaign Number

Chrysler has assigned recall number M34 to this action.