

Public  
File

MAY 15 2003

Larry A Sackey, Attorney  
Law Office of Herbert Hafif  
Claremont Professional Building  
269 West Bonita Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711

NVS-211sc  
DP03-002

Dear Mr. Sackey:

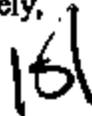
This acknowledges receipt of your petition dated April 18, 2003, requesting that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) further investigate alleged "defective collapsible steering shaft systems" used in certain DaimlerChrysler Corporation (DCC) vehicles. We have not been able to locate the petition that you said you sent to us on December 20, 2002.

Your petition correctly pointed out that NHTSA previously investigated (PE93-091, PE96-047, and RQ97-004) alleged steering column failures on 1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles, 1994-1995 Dodge Ram Series trucks, and 1993-1995 Jeep Cherokee/1994-1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee vehicles. As a result of the PE investigations, DCC recalled 115,000 units of 1993 Grand Wagoneer vehicles and Grand Cherokee vehicles (NHTSA Recall 93V210) and 475,000 units of 1994-1995 Dodge Ram Series Trucks (NHTSA Recall 96V230) to remedy a defect that could allow the upper and the lower steering column shafts to separate from each other.

NHTSA has decided to limit the scope of the vehicles for this petition to the 1993-1995 model year DCC vehicles excluding the models involved in the aforementioned two recalls because: (1) 49 CFR § 30120(g) limits a manufacturer's obligation to provide a recall remedy without charge to ten calendar years from date the vehicle was first purchased, and (2) 49 CFR Part 576.5 requires the manufacturer of motor vehicles and motor vehicle equipment to retain claims, complaints, reports, and other records concerning alleged and proven motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment defects for five calendar years from the date on which they were generated or acquired by the manufacturer.

In accordance with 49 CFR Part 552, "Petitions for Rulemaking, Defect, and Noncompliance Orders," NHTSA will conduct a technical review of the available information and will notify you whether the petition is granted.

Sincerely,



Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement

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