



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Test request (PE13-010)

Date: May 16, 2013

From: Frank Borris, Director 
Office of Defects Investigation

To: Roger Saul, Director
Vehicle Research and Test Center

BACKGROUND: ODI has opened PE13-010 to investigate allegations of rear suspension knuckle failure in model year (MY) 2005 and 2006 Dodge Viper vehicles. To date, ODI has received 2 complaints alleging rear knuckle failures in the subject vehicles and 1 complaint alleging failure in a MY 2004 Dodge Viper. The alleged rear knuckle failures involve 2 right knuckles and 1 left knuckle. ODI has arranged for one failed knuckle to be shipped to VRTC and is attempting to collect additional parts. Preliminary information from public sources shows the following platform and rear knuckle part number applications for MY 2003 through 2010 Viper vehicles (note that Chrysler skipped Viper production for MY 2007).

Platform	MY's	Left knuckle	Right knuckle
ZB	2003-04	5086731AA	5086730AA
	2005-06	5134995AA	5134994AA
Phase II ZB	2008-10		

ODI has requested information from Chrysler for the subject vehicles and for MY 2004 and 2008 through 2010 Viper vehicles (peer vehicles).

REQUESTED WORK: ODI is requesting the following laboratory analysis and vehicle testing, as necessary, to determine the failure mechanism(s) of fractured knuckles and identify design, manufacturing and use factors that may be contributing to such failures:

- 1) Fracture surface analysis of failed parts to identify failure mechanism(s); and
- 2) Review of laboratory reports received from the manufacturer, consumers or third parties.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The ODI investigator is Stephen McHenry, Stephen.mchenry@dot.gov, 202-366-4883. The ODI division chief is Jeffrey Quandt, jeff.quandt@dot.gov, 202-366-5207. The investigator and division chief should be updated at least bi-weekly of test program status/progress.

FINAL REPORT: It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed to a schedule to be determined in discussion with ODI.

