



June 4, 2013

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 replace or repair the front axle assembly on all affected vehicles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristin Kolodge".

Kristin J Kolodge

Enclosure: Defect Information Report for Chrysler Group LLC. Recall N26

cc: Frank Borris, NHTSA

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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Submission Date: June 4, 2013

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	4500/5500	2012	February 2, 2012 – End of 2012 Model Year

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

Magna Powertrain of America
1870 Technology Drive
Troy, MI 48083
(248) 680-4900
Country of origin: Mexico

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

5,617 (estimated)

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

Unknown

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

RAM 4500/5500 vehicles may experience a condition when in four-wheel drive, the front axle carrier (differential housing) can rotate relative to the axle tubes causing the front prop shaft to become bound up or fracture at the universal joint. This can result in a loss of motive power or damage to surrounding components if the prop shaft continues to spin.

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

- On February 26, 2013, Chrysler opened an investigation based on two 2012MY RAM 4500/5500 4x4 vehicles that exhibited a rotated front axle carrier in the field.
- The axle output torque is reacted by a moment in the carrier that would tend to cause the carrier to rotate about the tube. This moment is reacted by both the press fit between the carrier and tube, and four “puddle” welds.
- On February 2, 2012, Magna made some changes to their process and removed a three second dwell time from the four carrier welds.
- The removal of the dwell time caused a cold weld with inadequate fusion to the axle tube, resulting in a weak weld that may not be able to counteract the rotation of the carrier.
- In March 2013, Chrysler Weld Engineering and Axle Engineering worked with Magna to modify the welding parameters to ensure welds with proper fusion to the axle tube were being produced.
- On April 2, 2013, durability testing was completed to validate the axles with the new weld parameters.
- All 2013MY RAM 4500/5500 vehicles were already on containment at Saltillo Assembly Plant and had not yet been delivered to dealers. These vehicles were retrofit with new axles containing validated welds.
- During its investigation, Chrysler identified 0 CAIRs, 2 field reports and 0 VOQs reported between December 13, 2012 and April 23, 2013 potentially related to RAM 4500/5500 front axle rotated carrier rotation.
- Chrysler Group LLC is not aware of any accidents, injuries, fires or property damage potentially related to this issue.
- On May 28, 2013, Chrysler Group LLC decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall on all affected vehicles to replace or repair the front axle assembly on all 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 replace or repair the front axle assembly.

DEFECT INFORMATION REPORT FOR CHRYSLER GROUP LLC

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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 July 2013. Chrysler will provide the dealer and owner letters when available.

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

Chrysler has assigned recall number N26 to this action.