



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

APR - 3 2008

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. GEORGE BIELIS
VICE PRESIDENT PRODUCT ENGINEERING
BRAKE PARTS, INC.
4400 PRIME PARKWAY
MCHENRY, IL 60050

NVS-215kjs
08E-027

SUBJECT: CHASSIS TIE RODS

DEAR MR. BIELIS:

This letter serves to acknowledge Affinia Group, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a defect for the products listed below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

AC DELCO/45A0871/9999
AC DELCO/45A3073/9999
CONTROL CHASSIS/DS1456/9999
DODGE/2500/1998-1999
DODGE/3500/1998-1999
MCQUAY NORRIS/DS1456/9999
MCQUAY NORRIS/ES3496/9999
MCQUAY NORRIS/ES3496E/9999
NAPA/269-3208/9999
NAPA/269-6095/9999
SPICER CHASSIS/401-1073/9999
SPICER CHASSIS/401-1871/9999

NHTSA Campaign Number: 08E-027

Mfg's Report Date: March 24, 2008

Components: STEERING:LINKAGES:TIE ROD ASSEMBLY

Potential Number of Units Affected: 5,700

Summary:

AFFINIA IS RECALLING 5,700 AFTERMARKET CHASSIS TIE ROD ASSEMBLIES MANUFACTURED FROM MARCH 28, 2006 THROUGH MARCH 17, 2008, SOLD FOR USE ON MY 1998 AND 1999 DODGE RAM 2500 AND 3500 HEAVY DUTY TRUCKS. THE DUST SEAL SUPPLIED WITH THE CHASSIS TIE RODS WERE MANUFACTURED TO THE WRONG SPECIFICATION. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE DUST SEAL MAY PREVENT THE BALL STUD OF THE CHASSIS TIE ROD FROM PROPERLY SEATING INTO THE TAPER OF THE VEHICLE STEERING KNUCKLE DURING AFTERMARKET INSTALLATION.

Consequence:

IF THIS CONDITION REMAINS UNDETECTED, THE BOLT CAN EVENTUALLY UNSEAT COMPLETELY, CAUSING THE AFFECTED WHEEL TO DISENGAGE FROM THE STEERING MECHANISM, POSSIBLY RESULTING IN A CRASH.

Remedy:

AFFINIA WILL NOTIFY OWNERS AND REPLACE THE AFFECTED CHASSIS TIE ROD ASSEMBLIES FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING APRIL 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT AFFINIA AT 734-827-5400.

Notes:

THIS RECALL ONLY PERTAINS TO AFTERMARKET BRAKE PARTS CHASSIS TIE RODS AND HAS NO RELATION TO ANY ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLED ON DODGE RAM TRUCKS MANUFACTURED BY CHRYSLER, LLC. CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Kelly Schuler, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5227, by email at Kelly.Schuler@dot.gov, or through the office email at RMD.ODI@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Wallace

for George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement