U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

ODI RESUME

OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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Investigation: PE 14-013
Date Opened: 05/19/2014
Investigator: Stephen Mchenry **Reviewer:** Jeff Quandt
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Clutch Interlock Switch Malfunction

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Chrysler Group LLC
Products: 2004-06 Dodge Ram 2500 & 3500 with manual transmissions
Population: 110,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: A malfunctioning clutch interlock switch may allow the vehicle to be started while in gear.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	3	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	1	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	1	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Summary:

ODI has received three vehicle owner complaints (VOQs) alleging incidents of engine crank or start when the clutch was not engaged due to clutch interlock switch failure. The complaints involved 1 model year (MY) 2004 Dodge Ram 2500 truck and 2 MY 2006 Dodge Ram 3500 trucks equipped with manual transmissions. One complaint (VOQ 10566076) involved an incident that occurred when a child was able to enter the vehicle and start the ignition without depressing the clutch. The vehicle then moved forward striking another child resulting in a fatality. A second complaint (10533996) described an incident that occurred when the engine was cranked without the clutch pedal depressed while an individual was standing directly in front of the vehicle performing work under the hood. The clutch interlock failed to prevent the engine from cranking, which resulted in vehicle movement into the pedestrian performing work under the hood. The individual was knocked to the ground, but did not report any injuries.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to asses the scope, frequency and safety-related consequences of the alleged defect.

VOQs associated with the opening of this investigation are: 10585619, 10533073 and 10533996.