

Lewis H. Goldfarb, Esquire
Assistant General Counsel
Chrysler Motors Corporation
12000 Chrysler Drive
Highland Park, Michigan 48288-1919

Re: EA94-005

Dear Mr. Goldfarb:

On October 27, 1994, representatives from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) Office of Chief Counsel and Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) met with you and with Dale E. Dawkins, Director of Vehicle Compliance and Safety Affairs for Chrysler Corporation (Chrysler), concerning the above-referenced engineering analysis (EA), which involves rear liftgate failures on 1984 through 1994 Dodge Caravan, Plymouth Voyager, and Chrysler Town and Country vehicles. At the meeting, both you and Mr. Dawkins requested that Chrysler be given an opportunity to review the material developed in the course of NHTSA's investigation before the agency completes this EA.

Although NHTSA does not ordinarily share the results of its analysis or testing with a manufacturer before the completion of an EA, it is prepared to do so in this instance. However, this willingness should not be construed by Chrysler or by any other manufacturer as a precedent for future agency actions.

As a condition to our agreement to brief Chrysler on the results of ODI's investigation, Chrysler must agree, in writing, to the following:

1. Chrysler will not be allowed to copy materials used for the briefing, but will be allowed to take notes.
2. By November 30, 1994, Chrysler will provide ODI with its response to the briefing.
3. By November 28, 1994, Chrysler will provide ODI with a written response to the enclosed information request, including copies of all documents and other materials specified in items 1 through 5, 7, and 12 that Chrysler has not previously furnished to NHTSA. All such documents and other materials that Chrysler receives in the future shall be provided to NHTSA within five working days of their receipt.

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If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Coleman Sachs of my office at 202-366-5263.

Sincerely,

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Kenneth N. Weinstein
Assistant Chief Counsel
for Litigation

Enclosure

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