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March 24, 2008

Daniel C. Smith, Esq.
 Associate Administrator for Enforcement
 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Smith:

The following information is submitted in accordance with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect reporting regulations, 49 CFR part 573.6.

Affinia Group Inc. has decided to voluntarily recall certain chassis tie rods manufactured by its wholly owned subsidiary, Brake Parts Inc., and sold to wholesale distributors, dealers, installers, and other customers under the NAPA, Spicer Chassis, AC Delco, McQuay Norris, and Control Chassis (Canada) brand names for aftermarket installation on the vehicles listed below.

Product Identification

	NAPA	AC Delco	McQuay - Norris	Control Chassis	Spicer Chassis	Application
Part #	269-3208	45A0871	ES3496 ES3496E	Not Applicable	401-1871	Dodge Ram 2500, 1999 – 1998 Heavy Duty, 1 1/8" – 18 Thread, 10" Length Four Wheel Drive (4 x 4) Dodge Ram 3500 1999 – 1998 Solid Front Axle, 1 1/8" – 18 Thread, 10" Length Two Wheel Drive (4 x 2) Dodge Ram 3500, 1999 – 1998 Heavy Duty, 1 1/8" – 18 Thread, 10" Length Four Wheel Drive (4 x 4)
Part #	269-6095	45A3073	DS1456	DS1456	410-1073	Dodge Ram 2500, 1999 – 1998 Heavy Duty, 1 1/8" – 18 Thread, 46.9" Length Four Wheel Drive (4 x 4) Dodge Ram 3500 1999 – 1998 Solid Front Axle, 1 1/8" – 18 Thread, 46.9" Length Two Wheel Drive (4 x 2) Dodge Ram 3500, 1999 – 1998 Heavy Duty, 1 1/8" – 18 Thread, 46.9" Length Four Wheel Drive (4 x 4)

Recall Population

Approximately 5700 suspect chassis tie rods were manufactured from March 28, 2006 through March 17, 2008 and sold through Affinia's U.S. warehouses during that same period of time. Affinia cannot ascertain the number of parts that actually contain the defect, but Affinia will recall 100 % of the subject parts.

Description of Defect

Due to a dimensional error made by Affinia's supplier, the dust seal supplied with the chassis tie rods was 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. If this condition remains undetected, the bolt can eventually unseat completely, causing the affected wheel to disengage from the steering mechanism.

Chronology of Events

Affinia became aware of a potential issue with the chassis tie rods when it received a technical assistance call identifying the issue on or about February 21, 2008. Specifically, the call discussed vehicle steering return ability at low vehicle service miles on one of the subject products. Affinia immediately began an investigation of the subject products to determine whether a potential safety defect existed. Based upon its investigation, Affinia decided to conduct this voluntary safety recall on March 17, 2008. Affinia is not aware of any accidents or injuries resulting from this product issue.

Remedy Program

Affinia will replace the subject chassis tie rods at no charge to the customer. All affected wholesale distributors, dealers, installers, and other customers will be advised to immediately return their unsold inventory of the subject chassis tie rods for a full refund. Affinia will also work with its direct customers to attempt to identify and notify affected end users.

Pre-Notification Reimbursement

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 577.11(e), Affinia requests that it be exempt from providing notification of a reimbursement plan. All of the affected products are covered by the manufacturer's limited lifetime warranty. Accordingly, no person would be eligible for reimbursement pursuant to § 573.13.

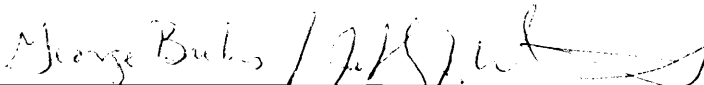
Part 577 Notice Letter and Dealer Notification

Affinia's draft Part 577 notice will be submitted within the next week and then Affinia will be prepared to proceed with its notification program within 10 days after NHTSA's review of these communications.

* * *

Please advise the undersigned of the NHTSA campaign number assigned to this recall.

Sincerely,


George Bielis / By: Jeff Wawrzyniak
Vice President Product Engineering
Brake Parts Inc.
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McHenry, IL 600500