

Fiat Chrysler to Recall Pickup Trucks With Problematic Airbags

By CHRISTOPHER JENSEN JULY 25, 2015

At the insistence of federal regulators, [Fiat Chrysler](#) is recalling about 843,000 pickup trucks because slamming the door too hard could set off the airbag meant to provide head protection in a side-impact crash, according to a report by the automaker posted Saturday on the regulator's website.

The recall includes about 667,000 vehicles in the United States and covers the Ram 1500, 2500 and 3500 from the 2013-15 model years. In addition to the United States vehicles, about 153,000 are being recalled in Canada, 8,300 in Mexico and 15,000 outside North America, a spokesman for Chrysler, Eric Mayne, said in an email.

The problematic airbag, typically called an "air curtain," is mounted in the ceiling above the side windows. The side-impact sensors were not properly calibrated, Chrysler said, so slamming the door "with excessive force" could set off the air curtain. Two injuries, described as minor, were noted.

In June, the automaker informed the regulator, the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#), of the problem, but contended that a recall was not needed, [according to the report](#). Instead, Chrysler wanted to notify owners that a fix was available, but the safety agency disagreed and insisted on a recall that requires every vehicle to be fixed and requires progress reports.

Carrying out recalls is an area for which the automaker has come under scrutiny. This month, the safety agency held a hearing in which it [accused](#) Fiat Chrysler of failing to promptly recall dangerous vehicles, citing 23 recalls involving more than 11 million cars. That raises the possibility of a fine.

The hearing was viewed as signaling a more aggressive approach by the agency under Mark R. Rosekind, who took over as administrator in December. The agency has long been criticized as often being too lax on automakers.