



U.S. Department of Transportation

**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**



1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

July 15, 2016

BY EMAIL ONLY

Louann Van Der Wiele
Vice President & Associate General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
FCA US LLC
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Dear Ms. Van Der Wiele:

As discussed during the June 23, 2016 Consent Order meeting between the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (“NHTSA”) and FCA US LLC (“FCA”), NHTSA believes that an important tool to proactively and expeditiously address potential safety-related defects is its ability to obtain information about all safety-related issues under consideration by FCA and to review those issues with the company.

The July 24, 2015 Consent Order between FCA and NHTSA contains two relevant provisions. The Consent Order specifies that “[f]or a period of one year, the Independent Monitor shall prepare a monthly list of every safety-related issue under consideration by FCA US’s vehicle safety department . . . , including the model and model year vehicles affected or potentially affected and a description of the safety-related issue.” Consent Order, Att. A § C(4). As this process has developed in accordance with NHTSA’s direction, FCA prepares this information under the oversight of the Independent Monitor. FCA’s monthly submissions are then an integral part of the discussion at monthly Consent Order meetings. Specifically, the Consent Order requires that “FCA US shall meet with NHTSA on a monthly basis for one year to discuss new technical service bulletins (TSBs) or other dealer communications reportable under Section 579.5 and decision-making associated with safety-related or high frequency warranty claims or safety-related field reports, as well as any other actual or potential safety-related defect issues identified by the Independent Monitor.” Consent Order Att. A § C(2). While both of these Consent Order requirements were initially for a period of one year, each may be renewed for an additional year at NHTSA’s option. Consent Order, Att. A § C(2), (4).

As we have previously discussed, NHTSA is exercising its option to renew the monthly submissions and monthly meetings under the Consent Order for an additional year. NHTSA’s exercise of its option to renew these requirements is not based on a concern about FCA’s

performance to date, but rather to facilitate continued communication between FCA and NHTSA on potential defect issues.

The monthly submissions and meetings required by the Consent Order have been an important part of ensuring that FCA is taking appropriate actions to proactively identify, evaluate, and address safety issues. Among other things, the Consent Order requires FCA to take actions to improve its processes and procedures for making safety-related defect determinations, to improve its ability to analyze data for potential safety-related defects and trends, to increase the speed of recall decisions, and to improve its communication with NHTSA. Consent Order ¶ 23; Att. A § A. The monthly submissions and meetings facilitate NHTSA's oversight of these improvements and help to ensure that the changes FCA has made and continues to make to its processes, analytics, and culture are effective.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kerry Kolodziej".

Kerry Kolodziej
Acting Assistant Chief Counsel
for Litigation and Enforcement

cc:

Hon. Rodney E. Slater
Independent Monitor

Alan DeGraw
Senior Counsel, FCA