

Seat Base Cover 573 Chronology (too many characters for the recall portal comment box)

Chronology:

In November 2016, a plant audit found a Metris vehicle produced without a seat base cover for the integrated backup battery at the front passenger seat. The opening is provided to allow access to the backup battery for the start/stop system if necessary. An investigation determined that the oversight was due to a documentation error. Proper installation of the seat base cover was introduced into production at the respective plants in May and October, 2017.

At that time, the oversight was not considered to pose a safety risk. With regard to the cargo vans, the opening is behind the front seat and not in a location in which an object would reach the opening. In addition, a bulkhead behind the front seat prevents objects from reaching the passenger compartment from the cargo area. With regard to the passenger vans, the opening is also behind the seat and in an unlikely location for an object to drop and to make contact with the battery poles. Nor would passengers perceive the opening under the seat as a storage compartment.

Subsequently, DAG learned of an incident that occurred in February, 2018 in China. DAG's personnel in China inspected the vehicle and found that a flexible water hose with stainless steel ends was found between the positive battery pole and the vehicle body. Contact between the water hose and the battery led to a short circuit and caused a fire under the front passenger seat. The incident was contained within the vehicle and there were no injuries. The vehicle in this case was produced at a separate facility for the local market.

Subsequently, DAG began to consider the issue again with respect to the cargo van variant without a bulkhead. This version is not offered for sale in the United States, but in an abundance of caution, on October 1, 2019, DAG determined that a potential safety risk cannot be ruled out and decided to initiate a recall campaign for all vehicle variants. DAG is not aware of any reports of injury related to this issue.