SUBJECT: RTV Use On Corporate Axle

MODELS:
1998 - 2001 (AB) Ram Van
1998 - 2001 (AN) Dakota
1998 - 2001 (BR/BE) Ram Truck
1998 - 2001 (DN) Durango
1998 - 2001 (XJ) Cherokee

NOTE: THIS BULLETIN APPLIES TO ALL VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH AN 8.25, 9.25, OR C205F CORPORATE AXLE.

DISCUSSION:
The axle lubricant used in all corporate axles was changed in formulation starting at the beginning of the 1998 model year. The corporate axles involved include: the 8.25 and 9.25 rear axles, and the C205F front axle. The new lubricant in use is SAE 75W-90 p/n 05010320AA. The lubricant change was made as a fuel economy improvement.

The new axle lubricant is more chemically aggressive/reactive when in contact with the previous used Room Temperature Vulcanizable (RTV) sealant. Because of this condition, the RTV used in assembly of the pan/cover to the axle housing was revised and improved.

When re-sealing axle covers, using the proper sealing material to minimize any potential sealant breakdown is important. The only recommended sealing material for all corporate axle covers is MOPAR RTV Sealant, p/n 05013477AA. This RTV is red/orange in color.

NOTE: IF SAE 75W-90 LUBRICANT IS USED TO REFILL ANY CORPORATE AXLE, THEN THE RED/ORANGE MOPAR RTV SEALANT, P/N 05013477AA, SHOULD BE USED TO SEAL THE COVER TO THE AXLE HOUSING.

To optimize sealant performance and enhance adhesion, flanges should be clean and free of residual lubricant. The mating flanges should first be cleaned of any excess old RTV using a plastic putty knife. Final cleaning/degreasing shall be done by spraying MOPAR Brake Parts Cleaner, p/n 04549623, on the carrier and cover flanges, followed by a wipe with a clean dry cloth. Care should be taken to avoid spraying the parts cleaner inside the carrier. Once the RTV has been applied, the axle cover is to be installed to the housing within 3 to 5 minutes to prevent skinning over of the RTV.

NOTE: IF THE AXLE COVER IS NOT INSTALLED WITHIN THE 3 TO 5 MINUTE TIME FRAME, THE CARRIER COVER FACE MUST BE RECLEARED AND NEW RTV APPLIED, OR ADHESION QUALITY WILL BE COMPROMISED.
Immediately install the cover attaching bolts and tighten them to the specified torque to prevent a shimming effect by the RTV.

*POLICY:* Information Only