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HL-30-92

Aug. 10, 1992

ITEM: AUTOMATIC TRANSAXLE FLUID INSPECTION PROCEDURE

MODELS: 1990-1992 (BD) LASER/TALON
(B2) COLT/SUMMIT
(B4) RAM 50/POWER RAM 50
1990-1991 (B3) COLT VISTA
1991-1992 (B7) STEALTH
1992 (B8) COLT VISTA/SUMMIT WAGON

GROUP: (21) TRANSMISSION

ACTION: It is important on the listed vehicles that when checking the transaxle fluid level, the fluid level must be checked in NEUTRAL instead of PARK. The correct procedural steps are as follows:

1. Drive the vehicle until the fluid reaches operating temperature (70 - 80 C [160-180 F]).
2. Place the vehicle on a level surface.
3. Move the gear selector lever sequentially to each position to fill the torque converter and hydraulic circuits with fluid. PLACE THE SHIFT LEVER IN THE "N" NEUTRAL POSITION. This procedure is necessary to be sure that the fluid level check is accurate.
4. Before removing the dipstick, wipe all dirt from around the dipstick tube. Then remove the dipstick and check the fluid level.
5. Check the fluid level to see if it is in the HOT range on the dipstick. If the level is low, add ATF until the level reaches the HOT range on the dipstick.

Improper fluid level can cause a variety of conditions because it allows the pump to take in air along with the fluid. Air trapped in the hydraulic circuit forms air bubbles which makes the fluid spongy causing erratic pressures. Overfilling can cause fluid foaming. Either high or low fluid levels can accelerate the deterioration of the fluid and transaxle components. Foaming can also cause fluid to overflow out the transaxle vent and this can be mistaken as a leak.

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