

TECH TIP

PROLONG COMPRESSOR LIFE?

To prolong A/C compressor life on the 2001 – 2002 Caravan, Voyager and Town & Country minivans, Chrysler has programmed the Powertrain Control Module (PCM) to engage the compressor during engine cranking. Chrysler calls this their “anti-slugging” feature. This feature was designed to pump liquid refrigerant out of the compressor that can collect as system pressures equalize.

Unfortunately, this feature worked better than expected and can also pump the lubricant out of the compressor when the A/C system has not been used over several drive cycles. This loss of lubricant can result in compressor noise and possible lock up.

Chrysler has produced a Technical Service Bulletin (TSB 24-002-02) to resolve this dilemma, which involves a software flash to update the PCM programming. This flash will take into consideration, previous drive cycles and compressor operation. If the AC compressor has not been active during recent drive cycles, the A/C compressor will not be engaged during engine cranking. Refer to Chrysler TSB 24-002-02



The SMP Deslugger® solves this liquid “slugging” problem by pulsing the compressor clutch multiple times during initial engagement. By gradually engaging the compressor, trapped liquid is gently moved out, preventing catastrophic hydraulic damage. Once the brief deslugging function is complete, the compressor reverts to normal cycling operation until the system has been off again for more than 30 minutes.