

NO: 21-11-99

SUBJECT: Transmission Fluid Level Inspection Procedure/Service Cautions

DATE: Jul. 23, 1999

THIS BULLETIN SUPERSEDES TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN 21-13-98, DATED OCT. 16, 1998, WHICH SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM YOUR FILES AND NOTED IN THE 1998 TECHNICAL SERVICE BULLETIN MANUAL (PUBLICATION NO. 81-699-99003). ALL REVISIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED WITH **ASTERISKS AND INCLUDE CHANGES TO THE FUILD/FILTER REPLACEMENT PROCEDURE AND ADDING ADDITIONAL MODELS AND MODEL YEARS.**

NOTE: THIS INFORMATION APPLIES TO VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH A 45RFE TRANSMISSION.

DISCUSSION:

The 45RFE transmission, ****newly introduced in the 1999 model year on Grand Cherokee models and for 2000 Dakota and Durango models, has some unique service features**** compared with its predecessors. The following are some items to consider during service:

Fluid Level Inspection

1. Warm the fluid to at least 21° C (70° F.) by operating the vehicle.
2. Measure the transmission fluid temperature using the DRB III®.
3. Move the gear selector through drive and reverse. Place the gear selector in Park.
4. Check the fluid level against the fluid level/temperature chart ([Figure 1](#)).

NOTE: WHEN COLD (BELOW 10° C {50° F}) THE FLUID LEVEL WILL NOT REGISTER ON THE DIPSTICK.

Fluid/Filter Replacement

Accurate fluid level is difficult to determine cold. Initially add only 5 quarts of fluid during the refill procedure. ****This amount will allow the engine to be started and the transmission to be operated in neutral until the transmission temperature has reached at least 21° C (70° F.)****. Once the fluid temperature is known, the final amount can be added without overfilling the transmission. Additionally, during this procedure, pressure switch and/or loss of prime DTC's may be set. If they are, erase them using the DRB III® before returning the vehicle to the customer.

POLICY: Information Only