

10113455

Jimenez, Alberto

From: Young, Robert
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2005 4:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Jimenez, Alberto

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail to NHTSA's Webmaster, which was received by NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) on February 01, 2005. We apologize for the delay in answering it; however, due to the number of e-mails received and limited resources, we were not able to respond to you in a timelier manner.

The information you provided concerning alleged wiring harness problems on 1994-1995 Mercedes models SL, C280, C220, B350, and B320 has been reviewed by my staff. The reports you reference describe harness problems related to the vehicles' age including loom deterioration and insulation cracking/crumbling, etc. There is one minor "fire" reported but it was an electrical short/smoldering incident causing the engine to stall. Otherwise, we have no reported fires that could be related to this issue for these 10-11 year old vehicles. Due to the vehicle age involved here and the absence of a safety-related defect trend at this time, we have determined that there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. We will continue to monitor this issue, however, and should the circumstances change, we will take appropriate action.

Sincerely,

Bob Young, Acting Chief
 Defects Assessment Division
 Office of Defects Investigation
 Enforcement

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2004 9:20 PM
To: TIS
Subject: Results of Complaints

I would like to know the results of or a summary of the results of several complaints that I have found in your data base. All these complaints involve deterioration of the insulation of the electrical wiring harness for the engine and related areas on 94 and 95 Mercedes, all models. The complaints describe the exact problem I am having with my 94 Mercedes.

10074940
 10087041
 769109
 10045725

2/16/2005

10069002

724438

8009065

10058951

10045719

714914

744218

This is just a few of the complaints I have found on your site involving this issue. I would also like to know why this is not a recall. This issue presents an extreme fire hazard and seems to have overwhelming evidence of this being a known problem. I have found one complaint claiming this caused a crash and fire (10074940).

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]
Brandon, FL
[REDACTED]

2/16/2005