

Jack Danielson, Executive Dir
NHTSA
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

[REDACTED]
Frederick, Maryland
Email: [REDACTED]

RE: Premature Engine Failure Mercedes-Benz Engine M278928
Engine Lock During Operation Safety Hazard

Dear Sir,

Unfortunately, I have not received a response from you about the above-mentioned issue. Please find enclosed a copy of my letter to you of September 4, 2023. Additionally, I have enclosed information from ***“Automotive Industry Giants”*** who have the integrity to resolve manufacturing defects without forcing their customers to resort to timely litigation to be treated fairly.

After reviewing the enclosed information, please let me know of any decision by Mercedes Benz USA to follow the lead of Hyunda Sonata, Hyundai Santa Fe Sport, Toyota Tundra, and Lexus LX to recall these vehicles for potential engine failure. I do have hopes that you will let me hear from you as I prepare for my legal case to recover damages. I am also interested in knowing any actions you are taking or plan to take against MBUSA regarding engine manufacturing defects!

Thank you

[REDACTED]
June 22, 2024

CC: Ralph B. Kalfayan, Esq., LL.M., 2262 Carmel Valley Road, Suite 200, Del Mar, CA 92014
Maryland Attorney General; Anthony G. Brown, Saint Paul Plaza, 200 St Paul Pl, Baltimore, MD 21202
Robert J. Tully, Esq., The Tully Firm LLC, 305 W. Allegheny Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204
Dimitris Psillakis, CEO Mercedes-Benz USA, 1 Mercedes-Benz D, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

R

102,000 Toyota Tundras and Lexus LXs Recalled for Potential Engine Failure

The recall affects Tundra pickups and LX SUVs built for the 2022 and 2023 model year and is caused by debris that was left in the engine during manufacturing.

BY [CALEB MILLER](#) PUBLISHED: JUN 4, 2024



TOYOTA

- **Toyota is recalling 102,000 vehicles, with both the Toyota Tundra and Lexus LX affected for the 2022 and 2023 model years.**



**SONATA & SANTA FE SPORT ENGINE
RECALL CAMPAIGN**

VIN Validation

Input your Vehicle Identification Number to verify if your vehicle is affected by the Sonata and Santa Fe Sport Engine Recall Campaign.

VALIDATE

[What is a VIN?](#)

Hyundai has decided to conduct a safety recall in the United States to inspect, and if necessary, replace the engine in:

- Model Year 2013 and 2014 Hyundai Sonata vehicles equipped with 2.0 liter and 2.4 liter gasoline direct injection (GDI) engines manufactured at Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama.
- Model Year 2013 and certain 2014 Hyundai Santa Fe Sport vehicles equipped with 2.0 liter and 2.4 liter gasoline direct injection (GDI) engines manufactured through September 12, 2014 at Kia Motor Manufacturing Georgia.



Hyundai is a registered trademark of Hyundai Motor Company. All rights reserved. © 2024 Hyundai Motor America

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Legal Notice](#)



Jack Danielson, Executive Dir
NHTSA
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Frederick, Maryland
Email: [REDACTED]

RE: Premature Engine Failure Mercedes-Benz Engine M278928
Engine Lock During Operation Safety Hazard

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed numerous correspondences with the Executive leadership Team of MBUSA. *The corporate office has failed to adequately address my concerns and have chosen instead to force me to assume responsibility for all safety concerns and the financial burden of replacing an engine that has been manufactured utilizing defective technology, methods, and procedures.* It is my belief that MBUSA knew or should have known that the engine was defective prior to selling their GL550 vehicles to consumers.

I am requesting that you investigate my claims which represent my interest and the interest of similarly situated owners of certified preowned purchased GL550 vehicles equipped with the M278 engine. The defect is known to MBUSA but they have elected not to disclose the defect leading to premature failure of the engine to customers who purchased vehicles equipped with this engine. The damage occurs when the car logs slightly more than 60,000 miles and progressively worsens until the vehicle logs in excess of 70,000 miles. ***There is the potential for the engine to lock at high speeds during operation on the nation's roadways. This is a clear safety hazard.***


The defect presented itself to me in my case when the car's engine started shuddering, losing power on the freeway, such that the car eventually needed to be evaluated by a certified Mercedes Benz Service Facility on multiple occasions before the defect was captured via borescope. The nature of the defect was revealed to me at one facility and additional documentation was required to verify with certainty the extent of the defect. Therefore, the vehicle was towed to a second Mercedes Benz facility to determine the extent of the engine defect. The images were obtained and revealed that all 8 cylinders are scored. The images have been included as part of this document. This type of damage simply does not occur in modern day vehicles absent a defect. The piston is an integral and basic component of an internal combustion engine, whose travel inside the engine's cylinder causes the compression of the combustible fuel and air mixture that propels the vehicle.

For more than 60 days, I have sent letters to the MBUSA Executive Team to request an equitable and safety-first solution to this problem that has resulted from the manufacture of a defective Mercedes Benz Engine. Despite numerous requests, the MBUSA Executive Team did not respond; but instead, instructed me to speak with the service dealership who in no way is responsible for the sale of the vehicle. I was told to purchase a new engine to remedy the problem at a cost of approximately \$40,000. ***Additionally, at no time prior to the sale of the vehicle or otherwise did MBUSA or its Germantown Dealership who sold the vehicle to me with approximately 34,000 logged miles disclose to me that the engine was prone to premature failure.***

For the reasons set forth in this document and previous correspondences, I do ask that you investigate my claims to ensure that this matter is resolved in a safe and equitable manner for me and all others who have purchased Mercedes Benz vehicles equipped with the M278 engine. I suspect that the proper investigation of my claims will reveal the true nature of the defect and what MBUSA knew about the engine defect. It is hoped that Ethical Leadership will resolve this issue. However, if legal recourse is required, then the end result, I believe will be similar to a ruling imposed by a federal judge in Georgia. ***He ruled that Mercedes-Benz must face claims it sold model year 2015-2019 C-Class vehicles that suffer from a manufacturing defect that causes them to leak raw fuel within their engine compartment. This is a clear safety hazard.***

It is hoped that the Executive Team will initiate a course of action to resolve this matter in lieu of having to Settle an Engine Defect Class Action Lawsuit as was the case on March 23, 2015. In this settlement, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC ('MBUSA') prospectively had to cover future repairs for the allegedly defective parts at issue for the lesser of 10 years or 125,000 miles, subject to certain conditions and limitations. This extended coverage more than doubled the durational limit of MBUSA's New Vehicle Limited Warranty's term of the lesser of 4 years or 50,000 miles." Mercedes-Benz reimbursed eligible engine defect Class Members for past repair costs that they incurred while attempting to replace the allegedly defective Mercedes-Benz engine. Car repairs that were not performed at an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer, were reimbursed up to \$4,000 for the engine defect repair and replacement costs.

Sincerely,


September 4, 2023

CC: Ralph B. Kalfayan, Esq., LL.M., 2262 Carmel Valley Road, Suite 200, Del Mar, CA 92014
Maryland Attorney General, Anthony G. Brown, Saint Paul Plaza, 200 St Paul Pl, Baltimore, MD 21202
Robert J. Tully, Esq., The Tully Firm LLC, 305 W. Allegheny Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204
Dimitris Psillakis, CEO Mercedes-Benz USA, 1 Mercedes-Benz D, Sandy Springs, GA 30328

Frederick, MD

NHTSA

Jack Danielson, Exec Dir
NHTSA
National Hwy Traffic Safety Admin
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590