



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE03-058
Prompted By: IE03-065, Consumer Complaints
Date Opened: 12/17/2003 Date Closed: 04/22/2004
Principal Investigator: Kyle Bowker
Subject: Engine Crankshaft Pulley Failure

Manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Products: 1998-2000 Mercedes-Benz Equipped With M112/M113 Engines
Population: 421,204

Problem Description: The complainants allege that the engine crankshaft pulley harmonic balancer failed.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	55	508	546
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	59,211	59,211

*Description of Other: Warranty claims for replacement of the engine crankshaft pulley harmonic balancer.

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been closed.

Engineer: Kyle M. Bowker KMB

Date: 04/23/2004

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 04/23/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/23/2004

Summary: The Office Of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened this Preliminary Evaluation to investigate allegations of engine crankshaft pulley harmonic balancer failure that could result in loss of power-steering assist. ODI has received a total of 546 non-duplicative reports that allege engine crankshaft pulley harmonic balancer failure on all Mercedes-Benz vehicles using the subject component.

The subject component failures are progressive in nature and only a small percentage of the complaints and warranty claims involved a failure that had progressed far enough to effect power steering performance (6 of 55 ODI complaints reference increased steering effort). There have been no crashes or injuries related to the alleged defect.

A safety-related defect has not been identified at this time and further use of agency resources does not appear to be warranted. Accordingly, this investigation is closed. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist. The agency will take further action if warranted by the circumstances.

See summary report attached for further detail.

KMB
4/23/04