



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-062

Date Opened: 11/13/2005

Date Closed: 02/08/2006

Principal Investigator: Ali Motamedamin

Subject: Instrument Cluster Failure

Manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.

Products: MY 2000-2001 Mercedes-Benz S Class Vehicles

Population: 71,613

Problem Description: Loss of illumination resulting in inoperative turn signal indicators, cluster gauges, and telltale lights.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	10	7	17
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	25	25

*Description of Other: 25 State Lemon Law Complaints

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is closed. Mercedes-Benz USA will conduct NHTSA safety recall (06V028).

Engineer: Ali Motamedamin A.M.

Date: 02/08/2006

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 02/08/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/08/2006

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) opened this investigation based on seven reports indicating that the instrument clusters in Model Year (MY) 2000-2001 Mercedes-Benz S Class vehicles failed in that consumers were unable to read any of the gauges while operating their vehicles at any speed during the day or night.

In its 573 report to NHTSA dated February 1, 2006, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (Mercedes-Benz) states that there are three instrument cluster failure modes that would result in undesirable operation. These three failure modes are specific to certain dates of production (see below) for the subject vehicle, and Mercedes-Benz is recalling those vehicles within those dates. Specific information regarding the failure modes is described in Mercedes-Benz's report (see NHTSA recall 06V028).

Three of the ODI complaints submitted to Mercedes-Benz involve vehicles that were produced before the dates of production of vehicles affected by the three failure modes. Based on review of those three complaints, Mercedes-Benz was unable to identify a relation of those three to the defects identified in the recalled vehicles.

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All of the Mercedes-Benz complaints with VINS identified were within the recall population (only 2 vehicle VINS were not available to positively identify vehicle build date).

The recall population will include 36,911 S Class and CL Class Mercedes-Benz vehicles built in the production dates ranging from June 2000 through November 2000, January 2002 through April 2002, and May 2004 through September 2004. These dates of production cover vehicles from the 2000-2002 MY and the 2004-2005 MY. To correct the condition, Mercedes-Benz will replace all affected instrument clusters with improved ones that are not subject to the failure modes. Mercedes-Benz will begin owner notification during the 1st quarter of 2006.