



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-007  
Date Opened: 02/01/2007  
Principal Investigator: Steve McHenry  
Subject: Electronic Stability Program Malfunction

Manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.  
Products: 2000-2001 Mercedes M Class  
Population: 95,900 (estimated)

Problem Description: Uncommanded brake application to one or more wheels may occur suddenly and unexpectedly due to Electronic Stability Program (ESP) system malfunction.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

### \*Description Of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Steve McHenry *SMH*  
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt  
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received five consumer complaints alleging incidents of uncommanded brake application in model year 2000 through 2001 Mercedes M Class vehicles. Three of the reports identify the ESP yaw rate sensor as the faulty component. Another report alleges multiple incidents of uncommanded brake application "at speeds 60 mph and higher" accompanied by ESP lamp illumination. The other report alleges a loss of control incident due to lock-up of the right rear wheel with no application of the service brake pedal.

The first complaint was received in April 2006 and the other four complaints were received from November 27, 2006 through January 4, 2007. Four of the complaints were from Florida and the fifth was from California. In addition, Early Warning Reporting data submitted by Mercedes Benz contains field reports of similar incidents.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to determine the scope, frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect.

*Handwritten signature and date: 02-01-07*