



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE07-042
Date Opened: 08/14/2007
Principal Investigator: Steve McHenry
Subject: Air Suspension System Failure

Manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Products: 2000 and 2002-2004 MY Mercedes-Benz S and SL Class vehicles
Population: 130,400 (estimated)



Problem Description: The air suspension system may fail and cause the body to drop and contact the tires, possibly affecting steering control.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	19		
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: Stephen McHenry 
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt 
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: The subject vehicles are equipped with an Airmatic air suspension, which replaces conventional steel springs with a compressed air system. This system provides a computer controlled variable ride height, which adjusts to changing driving conditions.

The Office of Defects Investigation has received 19 complaints alleging failures of the Airmatic system. Nine complaints indicated that the failure caused the vehicle body to contact the tires, adversely affecting the driver's ability to steer the vehicle.

A preliminary evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect.

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