



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

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ08-002  
Date Opened: 03/11/2008  
Principal Investigator: Steve McHenry  
Subject: Power Steering Hose leak

Manufacturer: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.  
Products: 1998-2003 Mercedes M Class  
Population: 226,412 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The hose clamp used to secure the power steering fluid cooling hose to the power steering fluid cooler, as a remedy for power steering fluid leaks in Recall, 03V-121, may not provide sufficient clamping force.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	8		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

\*Description Of Other:

Action: A Recall Query has been opened.

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

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Summary: On March 26, 2003, Mercedes-Benz submitted a Defect Information Report to NHTSA concerning a problem with leakage from the power steering fluid cooling hose in approximately 211,000 model year 1998 through 2003 Mercedes M-Class vehicles produced between May 1998 and December 2002 (safety recall 03V-121). The report stated that the decision to conduct the recall was based in part on 336 "power steering related calls" to its customer assistance center that could relate to the subject condition after Mercedes had issued a Technical Service Bulletin to address the issue in June 2002.

According to Mercedes, "loss of power steering fluid may result in diminished power steering over time and ultimately can damage the power steering pump." Mercedes' recall remedy involved installing a new hose clamp on the power steering hose at the power steering cooler connection. In addition, the procedure called for the hose to be inspected and replaced, as necessary. Recall 03V-121 was influenced by ODI Investigation PE03-006.

In March of 2004 Mercedes-Benz issued a Dealer Technical Bulletin (dtb 46.30/13) with instructions to replace the recall remedy hose clamp with a newer design in the instance of recall remedy hose clamp failure. An updated bulletin was issued in December 2007 (dtb 46.30/13a). ODI has received eight complaints of power steering fluid leakage in vehicles recalled under 03V-121.

A Recall Query has been opened to assess the effectiveness of the remedy in Safety Recall 03V-121.