



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 10-017  
**Date Opened:** 05/14/2010  
**Investigator:** Michael Lee  
**Approver:** Richard Boyd  
**Subject:** Driver Air Bag Circuit High Resistance

**Date Closed:** 11/24/2010  
**Reviewer:** Scott Yon

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** MERCEDES-BENZ USA, LLC.  
**Products:** 2005-2006 Mercedes-Benz E-Class  
**Population:** 104,276

**Problem Description:** Air bag warning lamp illumination due to high electrical resistance in driver's frontal air bag circuits.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	10	908	918
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other*:</b>	0	30,770	30,770

\*Description of Other: Warranty Claims

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Close this Preliminary Evaluation. A safety related defect trend has not been identified.

### Summary:

Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) has reported a high number of warranty claims for air bag warning lamp illumination due to a diagnostic fault code 9103 or 9123 indicating a high resistance in the driver's frontal air bag firing circuit. MBUSA's testing and evaluation have shown that this condition is the result of a faulty connector (specifically, improper wire crimp) but that it will not prevent proper deployment of the driver's frontal air bag. The faulty connector can cause the air bag circuit resistance levels to exceed the threshold that illuminates the air bag warning lamp, but they do not exceed a higher limit at which proper deployment of the air bag may no longer occur.

The agency believes that further expenditure of agency resources does not appear to be warranted at this time. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that no safety-related defect exists. The agency will monitor the issue and reserves the right to take future action if warranted by the circumstances.

During the investigation, ODI learned that MBUSA will initiate a warranty extension program to address the faulty connectors in subject model year 2005 and 2006 E-Class and other MBUSA model/model year vehicles. This action will extend the warranty coverage for this issue to 10 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. MBUSA will notify all affected vehicle owners of this action. A bulletin describing this program is available in the investigative file.