



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 10-017  
**Date Opened:** 05/14/2010  
**Principal Investigator:** Michael Lee  
**Subject:** Driver's Frontal Air Bag Wiring Failure

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** MERCEDES-BENZ USA, LLC.  
**Products:** 2005-2006 Mercedes-Benz E-Class  
**Population:** 100,000 (Estimated)

**Problem Description:** The steering column wiring harness containing the wiring to the driver's frontal air bag module may be too short for telescopic movement of the column. The wire ends may pull out of the connector block causing an open in the driver air bag circuits.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	4	TBD	TBD
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

### Summary:

ODI has received four complaints of steering column module wiring harness failures on MY 2005-2006 Mercedes-Benz E-Class vehicles. In December 2005, Mercedes-Benz USA issued a technical service bulletin (TSB No. P-B-91.60/99) and subsequently issued several minor revisions to the original TSB. The TSBs address reports of air bag warning lamp illumination accompanied by a diagnostic fault code 9103 or 9123 indicating a high resistance in the driver's frontal air bag ignition squib 1 or 2 (the air bag firing circuits), respectively. This condition may result in failure of the driver's first stage and/or second stage inflator to deploy in the event of an above deployment threshold frontal crash. According to the TSBs, the repair involves significant lengthening of the steering column module wiring harness by cutting and splicing each wire in the harness. Thus, it appears possible that the wire ends in the original, shorter harness could pull out of the connector block thereby causing an open-circuit condition in the driver's air bag circuits. Additionally, the TSBs cover MY 2003-2009 E-Class and MY 2006-2010 CLS-Class vehicles. Although ODI has not received complaints involving all of these vehicles, ODI will inquire about all vehicles covered by the above TSBs.