



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 13-026  
**Date Opened:** 07/11/2013  
**Investigator:** Evan Frings **Reviewer:** Scott Yon  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Mercedes C-Class Rear Lamp Failures

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.  
**Products:** 2008-2009 Mercedes Benz C-Class  
**Population:** 218,000 (Estimated)  
**Problem Description:** Consumers allege a loss of one or more rear lamp assemblies possibly due to an overheated electrical connector that, in some cases, resulted in melting, smoke, or a fire.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	21	TBD	TBD
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	3	TBD	TBD
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Injuries:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	TBD	TBD
<b>Number of Fatalities:</b>	0	TBD	TBD

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Open this Preliminary Evaluation.

### Summary:

ODI has received 21 reports from consumers alleging rear lighting failures in the brake and/or turn signals of the subject vehicles. The failure can cause the lights to dim, or cause the lights to not illuminate at all. The failure typically occurs in either the left or right tail lamp assembly however some consumers have reported simultaneous failures. The reports typically indicate the failure is with the lamp connector, with many indicating a burnt and/or melted condition of the electrical components. In multiple instances consumers have reported smelling smoke and seeing burn marks in the trunks of the vehicles. One consumer reported seeing small flames emanating from the rear lamp connector when the trunk was opened.

NHTSA is opening this investigation to evaluate the scope, frequency, and consequence of the alleged defect.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID> under the following identification (ODI) numbers: 10523816, 10520672, 10519714, 10519533, 10514998, 10513735, 10513304, 10511033, 10511017, 10509272, 10508108, 10505806, 10502606, 10499828, 10498161, 10489338, 10479913, 10475771, 10466181, 10446191, and 10441621.