



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Environmental & Safety Engineering Dept.

SENT VIA FAX

January 17, 2001

01V-014 (01)

Kenneth N. Weinstein
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W. (NSA-01)
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Part 573 Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 573, and on behalf of our parent company, DaimlerChrysler AG (DCAG), this letter advises you of a safety related defect in certain Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Specifically, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) submits this report regarding a defect in approximately 3400 model year 2001 CL-Class and model year 2001 S-Class vehicles.

573.5(c)(1): Manufacturer's Name

DaimlerChrysler AG, Stuttgart, Germany

Designated Agent: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Montvale, NJ 07645

573.5(c)(2): Identification of Vehicles

Make	Line	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Mercedes-Benz	CL-Class 215 S-Class 220	2001	November 2000 through January, 2001



573.5(c)(3): Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

Approximately 3400 MY 2001 vehicles are potentially affected. An exact breakdown, by model, will be provided to the agency shortly.

573.5(c)(4): Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect

It is estimated that approximately 0.1% of the vehicles may actually contain the defect.

573.5(c)(5): Description of Defect

Due to a supplier quality problem the sheathing material on the electrical connection of the heated windshield washer bottle hose may melt and cause surrounding plastic and insulation to melt.

573.5(c)(6): Chronology of Principal Events

On December 17, 2000 MBUSA became aware of one report of a customer vehicle with melted plastic and insulation near the heated windshield washer bottle hose electrical connection. Following an investigation of the subject vehicle and analysis of factory production records, it was determined by DCAG that the heated windshield washer bottle hose installed in production vehicles beginning in November 2000 had changed. DCAG, working with the vendor later, determined that a quality problem in the sheath of the heated washer bottle hose installed in these vehicles had occurred. The vendor of this part did not control the thermal performance of the sheathing material on the heating element near the electrical connection to specified levels. On January 15, 2001 DCAG implemented corrective changes to assure the thermal characteristics of the sheathing on production vehicles.

573.5(c)(8): Remedy Program

MBUSA will conduct a voluntary recall campaign for all MY 2001 CL and S-Class vehicles produced during this time frame to replace the heated washer bottle hose assembly. MBUSA expects to begin the client notification process in January 2001.

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573.5(c)(9): Copies of Communications with Dealers or Purchasers

A copy will be provided when available.

573.5(c)(10): Copies of Proposed Owner Notification Letter

A copy will be provided when available.

573.5(c)(11): Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

The MBUSA Recall Campaign Number is 2001-010002.

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If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (201) 573-2638.

Sincerely,



William Kurtz
Department Manager
Environmental and Safety
Engineering

cc: Jonathan White, Recall Analysis Division, NHTSA