



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
A DaimlerChrysler Company

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SENT VIA FAX
202-366-8065 OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

December 9, 2002

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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 defective condition with the carpeting material in the trunk compartment of approximately 65,000 model year 2000 and 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	S-Class	2000-2001	July 1998 - March 2001



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

Approximately 65,000 vehicles are potentially affected. These “subject vehicles” include all MY 2000 and 2001 S-Class vehicles produced between July 1998 and March 2001.

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

It is estimated that approximately 100% of the subject vehicles described above contain the condition described below.

573.5(c)(5): Description of Defect

DCAG has determined that there is the potential for excessive static build-up in the trunk floor mats of the subject vehicles. In the subject vehicles, excessive static build-up can cause a static discharge when individuals move or remove items from the trunk compartment which can damage the electrical system components located in the trunk, including the vehicle’s battery.

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

MBUSA has received complaints regarding static discharges while removing or moving items in the trunk area of subject vehicles, including some resulting in vehicle battery ruptures. It has been determined that the normal static build-up from such trunk mat materials, combined with the limited clearance between the floor mat and electrical components in the trunk, does not allow for a fully grounded static discharge. Accordingly, the subject vehicles will be retrofitted with a static insulation panel between the carpet and the vehicle battery.

573.5(c)(8): Remedy Program

MBUSA will conduct a voluntary recall campaign for all subject S-Class vehicles. The recall will be conducted in order to install a static insulation between the carpet and the vehicle battery which will provide an electrical grounding for static electricity that can build-up in the trunk floor mats of subject vehicles.

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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 will be provided when available.

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If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (201) 573-2719 or Mr. Stephen Kraitz, of my staff, at 201-573-4118.

Sincerely,



Gary H. Bowne
Department Manager,
Product Compliance & Analysis