



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
A DaimlerChrysler Company

RECEIVED

2003 FEB 21 P 2:05

OFFICE OF DEFECTS
INVESTIGATION

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

February 14, 2003

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Recall Analysis Division
Office of Defect Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20590

Attn: George Person, Chief

Re: 49 CFR Part 573; Recall of Mercedes-Benz S-Class Model 220

Dear Mr. Person:

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9), this letter contains 2 documents that were communicated to our dealers on the above subject and will be submitted in Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) regular monthly mailing for the month of February, 2003.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

2002 110014

NHTSA Recall Number

02V-338

Sincerely,

Stephen Kraitz
Senior Staff Engineer
Product Compliance and Analysis

Enclosure



Route: All
To: All Mercedes-Benz Dealers

Subject: Voluntary Recall Campaign MY '00 and '01 – S-Class Battery Anti-Static cover installation

Date: February 12, 2003

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On December 13, 2002 you were notified that Mercedes-Benz USA LLC will conduct a Voluntary Recall Campaign of certain 2000 and 2001 model year S-Class vehicles to install an anti-static cover to dissipate excessive static build up which can discharge while removing or moving items in the trunk area. Some customers have experienced vehicle battery ruptures as a result of the static discharge. In addition a battery electrolyte level check will be performed. This electrolyte level check does not replace the FSS sheet requirement for A and B service checks of wet cell batteries.

Approximately 65,279 vehicles in the U.S. are affected by the Voluntary Recall Campaign.

Today, the Recall Bulletin has been posted on StarTek Info and will be mailed to the dealers shortly. Customer letter mailing will also follow in a few days. An initial quantity of the required anti-static cover will be distributed automatically.

Engineering Services
2/12/03

FILE: SERVICE: GROUP 00 OF SERVICE INFORMATION BINDER
PARTS: GROUP I OF INFORMATION - PARTS & ACCESSORIES BINDER

Campaign No.2002110014
February 2003

TO: ALL MERCEDES-BENZ CENTERS

SUBJECT: MODEL 220 (M.Y. 2000 and 2001 [up to VIN No. 204036])
RETROFIT OF THE ANTI-STATIC INSULATION COVER ON WET CELL
STARTER BATTERY

DCAG has determined that S-Class vehicles for Model Year 2000 and 2001 require the installation of an anti-static insulation cover (gray cover, Figure 3, page 3) over the wet cell starter battery case. Additionally, a battery electrolyte level check (b, Figure 2, page 2), must be performed as part of this Recall Campaign. The battery (G1, Figure 1) is located on the right hand side of the trunk. Attached is a sample copy of a letter which owners of the effected vehicles will receive.

i NOTE: Model 220 vehicles with AGM/VRLA batteries (black case) installed are not affected.

Read the entire Recall Campaign bulletin prior to performing this repair and observe all warning statements.

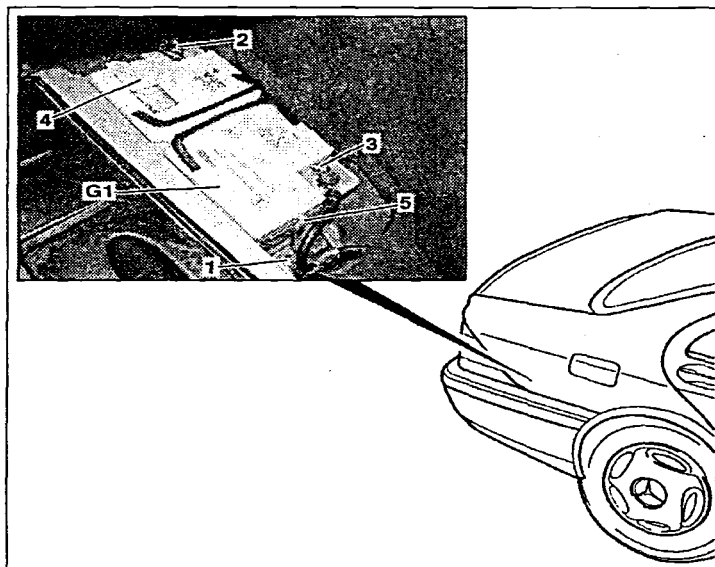


Figure 1

P54.10-2012-12

Order No. P-RC-2002110014

This bulletin has been created and maintained in accordance with MBUSA-SLP 5.1, Document and Data Control, and MBUSA-SLP 16.1, Control of Quality Records.

Approximately 65,279 vehicles are involved, for your reference, an Effective Serial Number Range Chart is listed below.

Note: Affected vehicles for MY 2001 pertain up to VIN No. 204036

Effective Serial Number Range

Model	Plant Code	Chassis End Number	
		From	To
220.170	1A	A 003918	A 204033
220.173	1A	A 156497	A 203784
220.175	1A	A 001290	A 204036
220.178	1A	A 129446	A 203893

Checking Battery Electrolyte Level and Retrofit of the Anti-Static Insulation Cover Procedure

1. Prior to performing this Recall Campaign, please check VMI to insure the vehicle is involved and to determine if the vehicle has been previously repaired.



Danger!

Explosion hazard from explosive gas.

Risk of poisoning and caustic burns, due to accidental swallowing of battery acid.

Risk of injury to skin and eyes from caustic burns due to exposure to battery acid and working with lead-acid batteries.

Wear acid resistant gloves, clothing and eye protection.

No smoking, fires, sparks or naked flames.

2. Prior to performing this Recall Campaign, carefully review and adhere to the safety instructions as indicated in the following documents: See WIS: **AS54.10-Z-0001-01A** and **AH54.10-P-0001-01A**.
3. Open trunk and fold up trunk floor cover to gain access to the battery (G1, Figure 1).

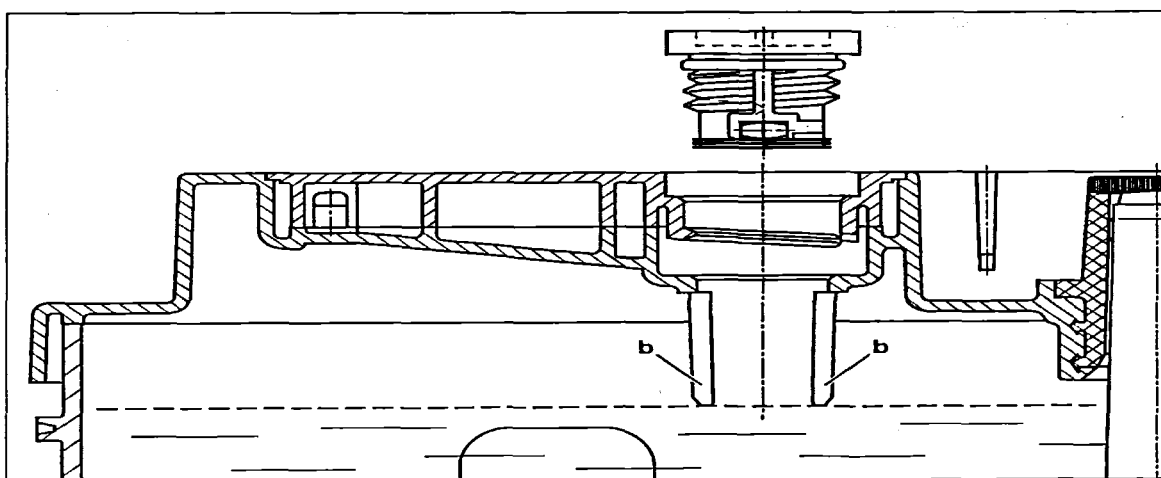


Figure 2

P54.10-2176-05

4. Visually inspect the acid level in each cell by opening each battery cell fill cap, making sure that the acid level is to the lower edge of the filler neck (b, Figure 2).

i **NOTE:** For battery acid level inspection, all the battery cell fill caps must be removed, and the battery acid level visually verified for each battery cell, since a visual inspection from the outside would be insufficient.

5. If the battery acid is below the upper marking line, carefully refill battery to the lower edge of the filler neck (b, Figure 2) with distilled water, using an appropriate Automatic Battery Filler (see Equipment Information Table). Ensure that all battery cell fill caps are securely tightened, after filling.
6. Ensure that the 90° vent fitting (5, Figure 1) is plugged into the battery case and that the vent line (5, Figure 1) is routed properly and is open (not kinked/pinched) thus venting the battery vapors overboard. Additionally, ensure that the vent hole at the opposite end of the battery case is properly plugged.
7. Inspect the positive and negative battery terminals (2, 3, Figure 1) for proper tightness. Clean and tighten as necessary.
8. Check positive battery terminal cover (4, Figure 1) for proper installation. The cover must be installed into the holes as provided in the battery case for this purpose. The perforated corner on the positive battery terminal cover must be removed.

i **NOTE:** If the positive battery terminal cover is missing, ensure that a new cover is installed.

9. Check bolt (1, Figure 1) of the battery mount for tightness.
10. Install battery anti-static insulation cover (Gray cover, Figure 3) onto battery by first placing cover over the top of the battery (White case, Figure 3), with the "+" marking of the cover positioned over the positive terminal of the battery. Evenly press down on the battery static insulation cover, and notice that the cover will "snap" into place (Figure 3), over the top of the battery case.
11. Visually ensure that the "spiral plastic" (gray cover, Figure 3) above the negative post area of the cover is indeed making contact with the battery negative terminal.

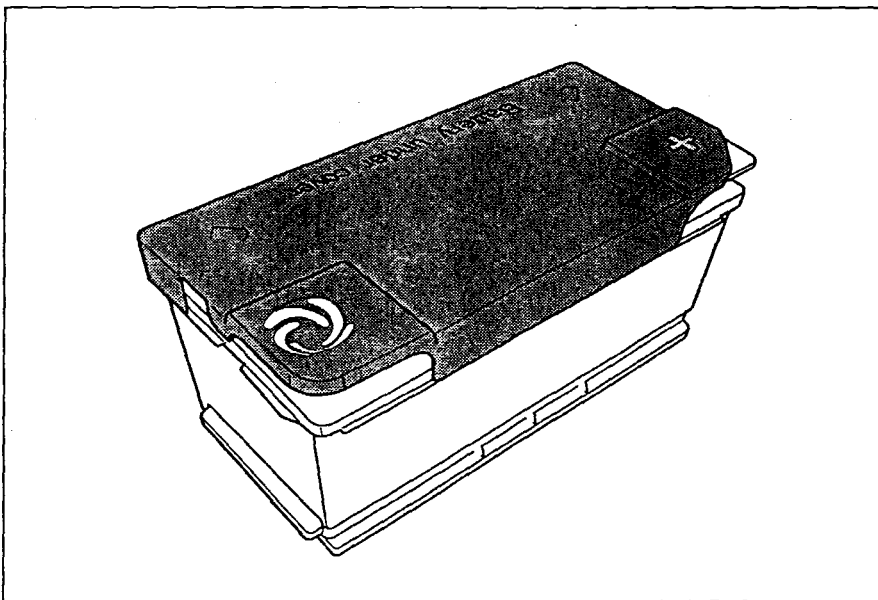


Figure 3

P54.00-2352-06

i Note regarding wet cell battery maintenance:

When performing wet cell battery maintenance on Model 220, the anti-static insulation cover must be removed to gain access to the battery cells, please ensure that the anti-static insulation cover is re-installed as necessary, by performing Steps 10 and 11 on page 3.

Parts Information

Qty.	Part Name	Part Number
1	Anti-static cover	A 000 541 00 05
1	Positive battery terminal cover (as needed)	A 001 546 08 35
1	Battery vent plug (as needed)	A 002 997 24 86
1	90° vent fitting (as needed)	A 000 990 38 72
1	Vent hose (as needed)	A 024 997 49 82

Equipment Information - Reference (local purchase)

Qty.	Description	Model Number
1	Automatic Battery Filler	e.g. GA 207 (Snap-on)

Warranty Information

Operation: Check battery acid level and install anti-static cover on battery case.

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)	Model Indicator(s)
54 900 41	02 3817	0.4 hrs	M1, M2, M4, M5

Safety Recall #2002-110014

February, 2003

Dear Mercedes-Benz Owner,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. WE SENT YOU THIS NOTICE BECAUSE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY.

DaimlerChrysler AG (DCAG) has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Model Year 2000 and 2001 S-Class vehicles. Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) therefore has initiated a voluntary recall of these vehicles. Our records indicate that your vehicle is included in this group.

DCAG has determined that S-Class vehicles in this group have the potential for excessive static build-up in the trunk floor mats. Excessive static build-up can cause a static discharge when individuals move or remove items from the trunk compartment. Static discharge can damage the electrical system components located in the trunk, including the vehicle's battery. These static discharges can result in battery rupture and release of caustic battery electrolyte in the vehicle trunk area. Customers should not attempt to access or service their vehicle's battery. All battery service should be performed by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer technician. Your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will assure proper battery electrolyte levels and retrofit an anti-static insulation panel between the trunk carpet and vehicle battery.

Your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer is available to provide this service, free of charge. The working time required is approximately 1 hour. We are sorry to inconvenience you, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR SAFETY, AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS, TO HAVE THE WORK PERFORMED IMMEDIATELY. Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer to schedule an appointment. Please mention this is Safety Recall # 2002-110014.

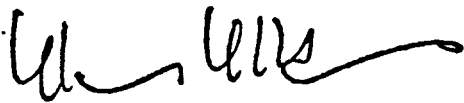
If you are no longer the vehicle owner, or have a change of address, please complete the reverse side of this letter and return the complete letter in the enclosed envelope. If this is a leased vehicle and the lessor and registered owner receive this notice, please forward this information by first class mail to the lessee.

Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer should you have any questions or encounter any difficulty regarding this recall. If your dealer is unable to remedy your situation please contact us at 1-(800) FOR-MERCEdes. (1-800-367-6372).

If an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer or Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, fails or is unable to perform this battery service without charge within 60 days, pursuant to law 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Again, we apologize for any inconvenience this situation may cause you.

Sincerely,



Klaus Ulkann
Vice President, Customer Services