



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
A DaimlerChrysler Company

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

May 4, 2004

04F-032

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

Re: Part 579 Foreign Defect Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

This letter is submitted by Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) on behalf of our parent company, DaimlerChrysler AG (DCAG) pursuant to Section 3(a) of the Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act (49 U.S.C. § 30166(i)) and the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 579.11(a). This letter refers to a DCAG Service Action falling under the definition of "safety recall" as defined in 49 C.F.R. § 579.4. This action will be conducted by DCAG in Japan on vehicles that are defined as "substantially similar" to vehicles sold or offered for sale in the United States.

• Manufacturer's Name

DaimlerChrysler AG, Stuttgart, Germany

• Identification of Vehicles

Make	Line	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Mercedes-Benz	S-Class 220 Platform	2003 - 2004	November, 2002 - October, 2003
Mercedes-Benz	CL-Class 215 Platform	2003 - 2004	May, 2003 - October, 2003



- Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Affected

4,115 S-Class vehicles and 263 CL-Class vehicles are potentially affected in Japan.

- Description

DCAG has determined that on affected vehicles, the trunk lid springs could fail in the closed trunk lid position, due to extensive exposure to very high temperatures. Only vehicles without automatic trunk lid closing are affected by this condition. This failure only occurs in the closed position and causes the trunk lid to fail to spring open upon being unlocked, thereby providing warning to the owner of the broken spring condition.

This condition represents a non-compliance with Japanese motor vehicle regulations.

- Start of the Service Action

On April 27, 2004, DCAG determined to conduct a voluntary Recall of the subject vehicles in Japan in order to comply with Japanese regulations.

Appropriate service materials are being developed for distribution in the following weeks.

Geographic Regions: Japan.

- Remedy Program

The Service Action in Japan will consist in replacing both trunk lid springs with improved springs of increased strength. In the U.S. improved springs are in all parts inventories and reported failures of trunks to open are repaired at

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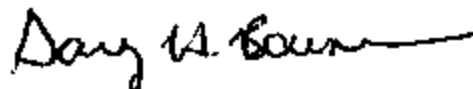
no cost to the customer. This customer satisfaction condition will also be addressed by a U.S. service action.

- Identification of Substantially Similar Vehicles Sold or Offered for Sale in the United States

The following vehicles sold in the U.S. fall under the definition of "substantially similar": Mercedes-Benz S-class (220 platform), and Mercedes-Benz CL-Class (215 platform).

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (201) 573-2638 or Mr. Stephen Kraitz, of my staff, at 201-573-4118.

Sincerely,



Gary H. Bowne
Department Manager,
Product Compliance, Analysis and
Safety Engineering