



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

FRANK DIERTL  
MERCEDES-BENZ USA, LLC.  
GENERAL MANAGER, ENGINEERING SERVICES  
ONE MERCEDES DR, PO BOX 350  
MONTVALE NJ 07645-0350

APR 15 2005

NVS-215  
05V-133

Subject: SENSOTRONIC BRAKE CONTROL/HYDRAULIC BRAKE

Dear MR. DIERTL:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent defect or noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records, as this is the information that will be made available to the public.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

MERCEDES BENZ/E CLASS/2003-2005  
MERCEDES BENZ/SL CLASS/2003-2005  
MERCEDES BENZ/CLS CLASS/ 2006

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 05V-133

**Recall Date:** March 31, 2004

**Components:**

SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 204,000

**Summary:**

ON CERTAIN VEHICLES, THE SENSOTRONIC BRAKE CONTROL (SBC) SYSTEM MAY PREMATURELY SHIFT TO THE HYDRAULIC BACK-UP FUNCTION MODE, DUE TO DETERIORATION OF THE WIRING HARNESS CONNECTION, OR DUE TO PREMATURE FAILURE OF THE HYDRAULIC PUMP.

**Consequence:**

IN THE HYDRAULIC BACK-UP MODE, THE DRIVER HAS BRAKING POWER SUFFICIENT TO STOP THE VEHICLE, ALTHOUGH GREATER BRAKE PEDAL PRESSURE IS REQUIRED AND THE BRAKE PEDAL TRAVEL WILL BE NOTICEABLY LONGER.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSPECT, MODIFY AND REPLACE THE SBC PUMP UNIT. THE MANUFACTURER HAS NOT YET PROVIDED AN OWNER NOTIFICATION SCHEDULE. OWNERS SHOULD CONTACT MERCEDES-BENZ AT 1-800-367-6372.

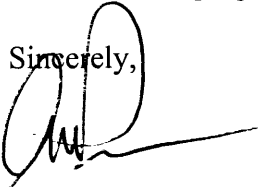
**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS CAN ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236.

Effective October 21, 2004, a manufacturer must provide an estimated dealer notification date as well as an owner notification date (month/day/year) when submitting a defect/noncompliance report (Part 573.6).

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:patricia.wallace@nhtsa.dot.gov) or [delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov](mailto:delia.lopez@nhtsa.dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,  


George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division