



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

August 30, 2005

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

NVS-215
05V-378

Subject: FUEL RETURN HOSE

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/G55/2004-2005

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-378

Recall Date: August 19, 2005

Components:
FUEL SYSTEM, GASOLINE:DELIVERY:HOSES, LINES/PIPING, AND FITTINGS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 487

Summary:
ON CERTAIN SPORT UTILITY VEHICLES, THE FUEL RETURN HOSE BETWEEN FUEL TANK AND RETURN LINE CAN BE PERMEATED WITH FUEL. THIS SITUATION RESULTS FROM THE EXPANSION AND CONTRACTION OF THE HOSE UNDER PRESSURE CAUSING MICROCRACKS IN THE HOSE MATERIAL.

Consequence:
THESE MICROCRACKS MAY CAUSE FUEL LEAKAGE. FUEL LEAKAGE IN THE PRESENCE OF AN IGNITION SOURCE COULD RESULT IN A FIRE.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSPECT AND REPLACE ALL FUEL RETURN HOSES WITH THE APPROPRIATE HOSES. 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 VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236; (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

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).

Please provide the date of when the manufacturer became aware of the recall.

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 or 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
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement