



U.S. Department
of Transportation

400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

December 22, 2005

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

NVS-215
05V-560

Subject: AIR BAG MODULE/FMVSS 208

Dear MR. DIERTL:

This letter is to acknowledge your recent noncompliance information report. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:
MERCEDES/C CLASS/2005-2006

NHTSA Campaign Number: 05V-560

Mfg's Report Date: December 15, 2005

Components: AIR BAGS

Potential Number of Units Affected: 61,000

Summary:

CERTAIN PASSENGER VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH SPORT MODEL STEERING WHEELS FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 208, "OCCUPANT CRASH PROTECTION." IN CERTAIN LOW RISK AIR BAG DEPLOYMENT TESTS CONDUCTED BY NHTSA, USING AN OUT-OF-POSITION UNBELTED 5TH PERCENTILE FEMALE CRASH TEST DUMMY, IRREGULARITIES WERE DEMONSTRATED.

Consequence:

IN THE EVENT OF A CRASH, AN OCCUPANT MAY NOT BE PROPERLY RESTRAINED WHICH COULD RESULT IN INJURIES.

Remedy:

DEALERS WILL INSTALL A NEW AIR BAG INFLATOR MODULE FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN MARCH 2006. OWNERS MAY CONTACT MERCEDES-BENZ AT 1-800-367-6372.

Notes:

CUSTOMERS MAY 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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

This recall was the subject of an investigation, PE-208-050405, conducted by the Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance.

The information in your noncompliance report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

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

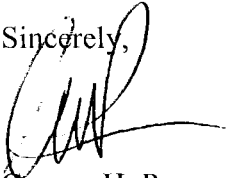
You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers.

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).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. As stated in your report, owner notification is expected to begin during March 2006. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due by April 30, 2006.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Person', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George H. Person
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement