



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Frank Dierl
General Manager, Engineering Services

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

December 22, 2005

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

Re: 49 CFR Part 573; Recall of Mercedes-Benz C-Class (203) Driver Air Bag

Dear Mr. Person:

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9), this letter contains 1 document that was 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 December, 2005.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

Not available at this time.

NHTSA Recall Number

05V-560

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Gary Bowne at 201-573-2719.

Sincerely,

FD:sk

Enclosure

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MBUSA.com



Mercedes-Benz

To: Mercedes-Benz Dealer Principals, General Managers, Sales Managers, Service Managers, Parts Managers

From: Frank J. Diertl, General Manager, Engineering Services

Date: December 22, 2005

Re: Recall Campaign – Driver Airbag- Model 203

On December 15, 2005 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) was notified that Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC will conduct a voluntary Recall Campaign on certain model year 2005 - 2006 C-Class (203) vehicles with regard to the drivers airbag. This notification will be posted on the NHTSA web site and may generate some customer questions.

NHTSA recently conducted low-risk out-of-position/unbelted airbag deployment tests on a Mercedes-Benz C-Class "Sport Sedan" produced between May 2004 and November 2005. Results of this testing included values which exceeded the permitted neck injury score for a dummy simulating an unbelted female driver of extremely small stature located extremely close to a deploying airbag.

DaimlerChrysler believes that the test readings in question reflect differences between the crash test dummy used in this type of test and humans, and do not represent a risk in real world crash situations. In spite of this belief that the current system is safe in real world accident situations, DaimlerChrysler has developed a new driver airbag module, which will be installed in the steering wheel on all vehicles subject to the recall.

This Recall Campaign affects approximately 61,000 vehicles in the U.S. All drivers' airbag modules in affected vehicles will be replaced with a new driver airbag module. The new module is designed to be compatible with the existing NHTSA test.

Due to the time required to re-tool this part the Recall will be launched, and notification sent to customers, no sooner than sometime in Mid-March of 2006. As soon as sufficient parts supplies are made available and customer notification begins we will contact you with further information on the release of this campaign.

Please refer all customer inquiries to the Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-FOR-MERCEdes (1800-367-6372).


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