



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Rolf Scherer
General Manager, Engineering Services

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

September 8, 2006

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 SLK (170) Tail Lamps

Dear Mr. Person:

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.5(c)(9), this letter contains 2 documents that were 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 September, 2006.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number
2006080005

NHTSA Recall Number
05V-505

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

Sincerely,

RS:sk

Enclosure



UPDATE

MERCEDES-BENZ USA, LLC
One Mercedes Drive, P.O. Box 350, Montvale, NJ 07645-0350
Phone (201) 573-0600
Fax (201) 573-0117
MBUSA.com



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

From: Rolf Scherer, General Manager, Engineering Services

Date: September 8, 2006

Re: Recall Campaign 2006080005 - Replace Tail Lamps, Model 170 Model Year 1998 - 2000

On December 13, 2005 you were notified that Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC will conduct a voluntary Recall Campaign on certain model year 1998 - 2004 Model (170) SLK vehicles with regard to the tail lamps. Today MBUSA will launch this recall campaign in the first of 8 customer notification phases for MY 1998 - 2000 vehicles only.

Due to the volume of affected vehicles, network service capacity, and to maintain an adequate and uninterrupted parts supply, VINS will be added to the campaign in two stages. Today, approximately 32,618 affected Model 170 VIN's (pre-face lift MY '98 - '00) vehicles only will be flagged in VMI. The remaining 37,000 affected Model 170 (post facelift MY '01 - '04) vehicles will be added to the campaign only when replacement tail lamps are made available.

Due to heat generated by the brake lamps, the base of the lamp socket can be subject to thermal deformation over time. This deformation can cause movement in the socket-to-bulb connection, which may lead to a loosening of the electrical contacts in the sockets, and a failure of the bulb to illuminate. This can cause a failure on either of the brake lamp bulbs to illuminate. The center brake light is not affected. A failure of the bulbs to illuminate could lead to a rear end vehicle crash.

This Recall Campaign affects approximately 32,618 MY 1998 - 2000 vehicles in the U.S. The repair time for this campaign is 0.5 hours. All rear lamp modules in affected vehicles will be replaced with redesigned rear lamp modules. The new module has been designed with a more heat resistant material, different bulbs, and enhanced lamp holder mountings. A label will also be placed in the vehicle operator's manual indicating new bulb part number assignment.

A quantity of the required parts will be distributed automatically to dealers beginning this week for Phase I. However to maintain an adequate and uninterrupted parts supply, only 8,200 owner's letters will be mailed early next week in the first of 8 phases. Any vehicle flagged in VMI may be repaired irrespective of the customer receiving a recall notification letter. Please note that additional parts must be ordered with VIN, and are non-returnable. Parts are in limited supply and are to be ordered for vehicles already scheduled for an appointment, and not for shelf stock. Additional parts will also be distributed automatically to dealers as soon as sufficient parts supplies are made available in conjunction with each successive phase of customer notifications.

A copy of the campaign bulletin is attached, and may also be found on StarTekInfo.

When scheduling customers for an appointment please ensure that you are aware of any open campaigns in VMI so that the customer is advised about the time necessary to complete all campaigns.

UPDATE

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MBUSA.com



Note: VMI must always be checked before performing campaigns to verify that the campaign is required on a specific vehicle.

While we regret any inconvenience this causes, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC is determined to maintain a high level of vehicle quality and customer satisfaction.

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

FILE: SERVICE: GROUP 00 OF SERVICE INFORMATION BINDER
PARTS: GROUP I OF INFORMATION _ PARTS & ACCESSORIES BINDER

Campaign No. 2006080005, September 2006

TO: ALL MERCEDES-BENZ CENTERS
SUBJECT: **MODEL 170, MODEL YEAR 1998-2000
REPLACE TAIL LAMPS**

This Recall Campaign has been initiated because DCAG has determined that due to the heat generated by the brake lamps of the affected vehicles (see VIN range on the following page) the base of the lamp socket can be subject to thermal deformation over time. This deformation can cause movement in the socket-to-bulb connection, which may lead to a loosening of the electrical contacts in the sockets and a failure of the bulb to illuminate. This can cause a failure of either brake light (the center brake light is not affected). A failure of the brake lamp bulbs to illuminate could lead to a rear end vehicle crash. Dealer will replace all rear lamp modules in affected vehicles with new rear lamp modules redesigned with a more heat resistant material, different bulbs, and enhanced lamp holder mountings. Dealer will also place a label in the vehicle operator's manual indicating new bulb part number assignment.

Please review the Effective Serial Number chart located on the following page.

Attached is a sample copy of a letter which owners of the affected vehicles will receive.

Prior to performing this Recall Campaign:

- Please check VMI to insure the vehicle is involved and to determine if the vehicle has been previously repaired.
- Please review the entire Recall Campaign bulletin.

Approximately 32,618 vehicles are affected.

Order No. P-RC-2006080005

This bulletin has been created and maintained in accordance with MBUSA-SLP S423QH001, Document and Data Control, and MBUSA-SLP S424HH001, Control of Quality Records.

Effective Serial Number Range

Models	Chassis End Number	
	From	To
170.447	F000909	F171342

Note:

Every vehicle in the VIN range may not be included in the campaign. VMI must always be checked before performing campaigns to verify that the campaign is required on a specific vehicle. VMI **always** overrides the bulletin in reference to a specific vehicle's inclusion in a particular campaign. Please also note that Recall and Service Campaigns **do not expire** and may also be performed on a vehicle with a vehicle status indicator.

Procedure**WARNING!**

Risk of injury to skin and eyes from handling hot or glowing objects.

1. Open trunk lid.
2. Remove first-aid kit on left side; remove flap in wheelhouse paneling and CD changer (if applicable) on right side.
3. Remove nuts (A, Figure 1).
4. Disconnect electrical connector (B).
5. Replace tail lamps (C) on both sides of vehicle.

Note:

Ensure to install and position seal (D) correctly when installing new tail lamp.

6. Reassemble in reverse order.

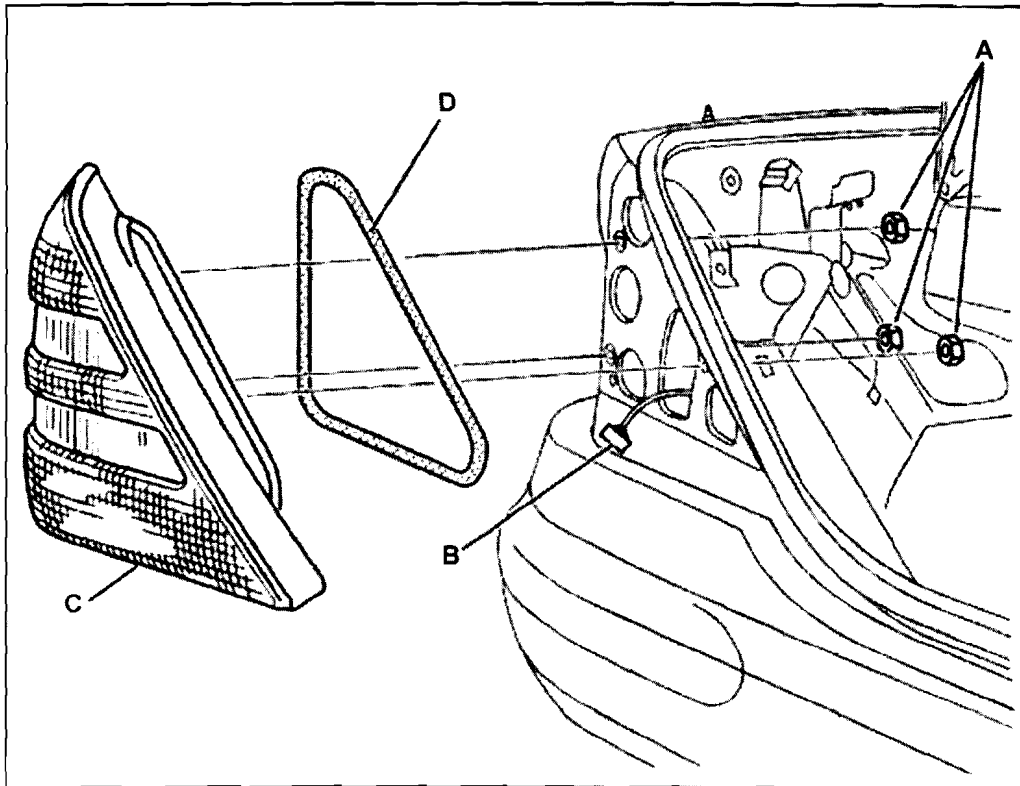


Figure 1

7. Place new sticker over previous lamp specifications in Operator's Manual as shown in Figure 2 for Model Years 1998-2000.

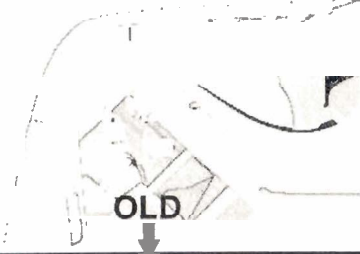
Instruments and controls	Operation	Driving	Instrument cluster display	Practical hints	Car care	Technical data	Index
Exterior lamps				222			
Tail lamp assemblies				<p>Open trunk lid: Remove cover in right side panel, and first aid kit in left side panel.</p> <p>Twist bulb socket counterclockwise and pull out. Push bulb into socket, turn counterclockwise and remove.</p> <p>Insert new bulb in socket, push in and twist clockwise. Reinstall bulb socket, and close cover.</p>			
 <p style="text-align: center;">OLD</p>				<p style="text-align: center;">NEW</p>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Stop Lamp (1154 21W/32 cp bulb) 2 Turn signal lamp (1156 NA 21 W/24 cp bulb) 3 Tail, parking and standing lamp (67 5W/4 cp bulb) 4 Backup lamp (1154 21 W/32 cp bulb) 5 Driver's side: Rear fog lamp (1155 21W/32 cp bulb) 				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Stop Lamp (P 21W) 2 Turn signal lamp (PY 21W) 3 Tail, parking and standing lamp (P 21W) 4 Backup lamp (P 21W) 5 Driver's side: Rear fog lamp (P 21W) 			

Figure 2

(Operator's Manual MY1998-2000)

Parts Information

Qty.	Part Name		Part Number	Estimated Replacement Rate
1	Right tail lamp	(MY 1998-2000)	A 170 820 1464 05	100%
1	Left tail lamp	(MY 1998-2000)	A 170 820 1564 05	
1	Adhesive label	(MY 1998-2000)	BQ 900 0008	

Note:

- Please be aware that only the part number(s) referenced in the Campaign Bulletin is/are approved for use to repair the vehicle. Repairs performed using any other part(s) will not have been performed in accordance with the campaign. Accordingly, warranty claims submitted with reference to an improper part number(s) will be denied.
- The following allowable labor operation should be used when submitting a warranty claim for this repair:

Warranty Information**Operation: Tail Lamp Units (Both), Replace (02-5323)**

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)	Model Indicator(s)
82 920 36 7	02-5323	0.5 h	G1

NOTE REGARDING CUSTOMER REIMBURSEMENT

Reimbursement to customers for repairs performed prior to this recall:

If the customer already paid to have this recall campaign condition repaired and provides adequate documentation to support their claim of a non-warranty repair of this item, they may be eligible to receive reimbursement.

Requests for reimbursement may include parts, labor, fees and taxes.

Reimbursement is limited to the amount the repair of the Tail Lamps and related parts associated to the replacement would have cost if completed by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer under this campaign.

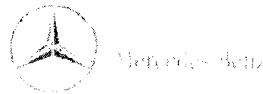
Submit a warranty claim, utilizing Damage Code 82 920 36 8 as a sublet, utilizing the sublet code of "SUB." Sublet repairs require dealer text as stated in the Warranty Policies and Procedures Manual. Repair date should be the date that the customer paid for the repair.

Note:

Please note the claim submitted for customer reimbursement will not close the campaign (if still open). If the customer is still in possession of the vehicle with an open campaign, please arrange to close the campaign in the usual manner as described in this bulletin.

Note:

If the Operator's Manual is missing from the vehicle, it will not be replaced as part of this campaign.



Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Chrysler Building
300 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10017

Safety Recall #2006080005

September, 2006

Dear Mercedes-Benz Owner

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. WE SENT YOU THIS NOTICE BECAUSE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY.

DaimlerChrysler AG (DCAG), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Model Year 1998 - 2004 SLK-Class vehicles with regard to the tail lamp assemblies. Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) therefore has initiated a recall of these vehicles. Our records indicate that your vehicle is included in the affected population of vehicles.

DCAG has determined that due to heat generated by the brake lamps, the base of the lamp sockets can be subject to thermal deformation over time. This deformation can cause movement in the socket-to-bulb connection, which may lead to a loosening of the electrical contacts in the sockets, and a failure of the bulb to illuminate. This condition can cause a failure of either side brake lamp bulbs to illuminate. The center brake lamp is not affected. A failure of the brake lamp bulbs to illuminate could lead to a rear end vehicle crash.

Your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will install redesigned tail lamp assemblies using more heat resistant material and enhanced lamp holder mountings to withstand the heat generated by the brake lamps. This service will be provided free of charge. The working time required to repair this condition is approximately 1 hour. As a matter of normal service process, your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will also check for other repair measures which might be applicable to your vehicle and this may increase the required working time. Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for additional information and to schedule an appointment at your earliest convenience. Please mention Recall Campaign #2006080005.

If you are no longer the vehicle owner, or have a change of address, please complete the reverse side of this letter and return the complete letter in the enclosed envelope. If this is a leased vehicle and the lessor and registered owner receive this notice, please forward this information by first class mail to the lessee. If you have paid to have this recall condition corrected prior to this notice you may be eligible to receive reimbursement. Please see the reverse side of this notice for details.

Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer should you have any questions or encounter any difficulty regarding this recall. If your dealer is unable to remedy your situation please contact us at 1-(800) FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372).

If an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer or Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, fails or is unable to perform this service without charge within 60 days, pursuant to law 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We apologize for any inconvenience this situation may cause you.

Sincerely,

One Mercedes Drive, P.O. Box 350, Montvale, NJ 07645-0350, Phone 1-800-FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372), Fax (201) 476-6211
www.MBUSA.com

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IMPORTANT

IF FOR ANY REASON YOU DO NOT NOW OWN THIS VEHICLE OR HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SECTION BELOW, PLACE IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, AND DROP IN ANY MAIL BOX. IF POSSIBLE, PROVIDE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRESENT OWNER SO THAT WE MAY CONTACT THEM.

- SCRAPPED
 STOLEN
 OTHER _____
 SOLD I HAVE SOLD THE VEHICLE TO:
 MY NEW ADDRESS IS:

NAME _____

STREET _____ APT. _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

**** PLEASE DO NOT DETACH. RETURN COMPLETE LETTER ****
 DO NOT USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE FOR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

Reimbursement to Customers for Repairs Performed Prior to Recall

If you have already paid to have this recall condition corrected you may be eligible to receive reimbursement.

Requests for reimbursement may include parts, labor, fees and taxes. Reimbursement may be limited to the amount the repair would have cost if completed by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer. The following documentation must be presented to your dealer for reimbursement.

Original or clear copy of all receipts, invoices and/or repair orders that show:

- The name and address of the person who paid for the repair.
- The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) of the vehicle that was repaired.
- What problem occurred, what repair was done, when it was done and who repaired it.
- The total cost of the repair expense that is being claimed.
- Proof of payment of repair (copy of front and back of cancelled check, or copy of credit card receipt).
- Reimbursement will be made by check from your dealer. If your claim is denied you will receive a letter from MBUSA within 60 days of receipt with the reason(s) for the denial.

Please speak with your dealer concerning this matter.