



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Frank Dierl  
General Manager, Engineering Services

**VIA CERTIFIED MAIL**

March 16, 2006

708 MAR 29 A 48  
A  
NHTSA INVESTIGATION

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 March, 2006.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number  
2006000005

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



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

Campaign No. 2006020005, March 2006

TO: ALL MERCEDES-BENZ CENTERS

SUBJECT: **MODEL 203, MODEL YEAR 2005-2006  
REPLACE DRIVER AIRBAG**

This Recall Campaign has been initiated because DCAG has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain Model Year 2005 – 2006 C-Class vehicles (see VIN range on the following page) with regard to the driver's airbag.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (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.

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 60,070 vehicles are involved.

Order No. P-RC-2006020005

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
203.040	A617188	A823487
	F504147	F731221
203.052	A775384	A873947
	F686796	F780322
203.056	F714413	F779948
203.064	F539426	F724142

**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.** Injuries may result when performing testing or repair work on airbags. Prior to performing the following procedure carefully review and adhere to the safety instructions as described in the following WIS documents: AS91.00-Z-0001-01A, AH91.00-P-0002-01B, AH91.00-P-0004-01A and AH91.00-P-0006-01A.

### **Note:**

- All airbags returned for warranty consideration must be shipped in the original container, observing all applicable safety regulations concerning the shipping of warranty components classified as hazardous material. **Do not deploy the airbags prior to shipping.** Package recalled airbag modules in the same fiberboard packaging in which you received the replacement airbag modules. Ship airbag modules by **GROUND** transportation only, to MBUSA Jacksonville Warranty Inspection.
- The shipping of airbag modules, a hazardous material, must be done in accordance with the rules and regulations in Title 49 CFR (the U.S. Department of Transportation's Hazardous Materials Shipping Regulations). Refer to the "Hazardous Materials Shipping Guidance" section on pages 6-7 of this document to assist you on how to properly mark, label, package and document this hazardous material for transportation.

1. Move steering wheel to fully extended position.

### **⚠ WARNING!**

**Risk of explosion** caused by oxyhydrogen gas. **Risk of poisoning and caustic burns** caused by swallowing battery acid. **Risk of injury** caused by burns to skin and eyes from battery acid or when handling damaged lead-acid batteries.

2. Disconnect battery ground cable; refer to WIS document AR54.10-P-0003P.
3. Remove two screws (arrows, Figure 1) located in back of steering wheel.



**Figure 1**

### **CAUTION!**

The airbag unit is still attached to the steering wheel with electrical connectors.

4. Gently lift airbag out of steering wheel.

5. Remove orange connector locks (arrows, Figure 2).
6. Disconnect green (A) and yellow (B) squib electrical connectors.
7. Disconnect multifunction steering wheel electrical connector (C).
8. Remove airbag.

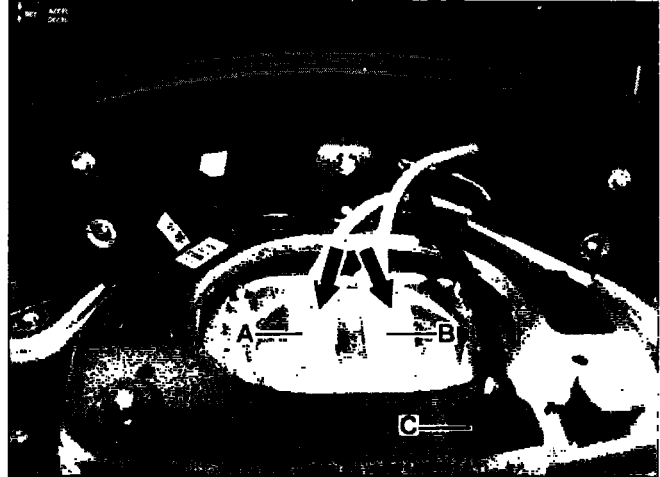


Figure 2

9. Install new airbag (Figure 3) in reverse order.
10. Connect battery ground cable.
11. Check function of new steering wheel switches and horn.
12. Connect Star Diagnosis; read out and erase fault codes and event memory.
13. Disconnect Star Diagnosis.

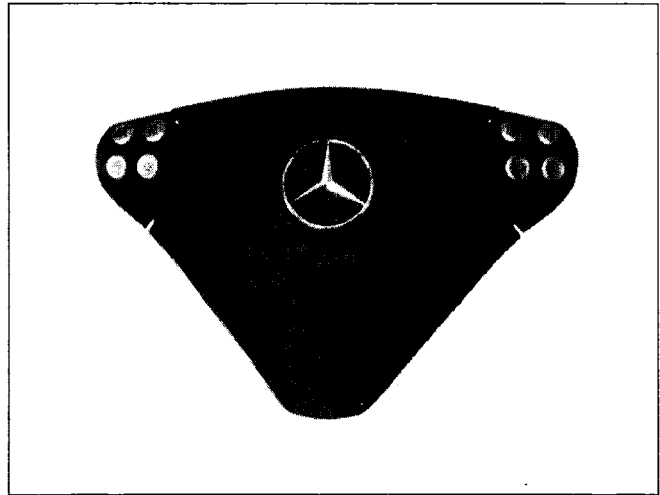
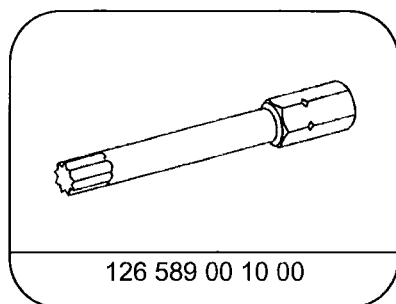


Figure 3

**Special Tools**

126 589 00 10 00

Screwdriver Bit

**Special Tool Information**

Special Tool Number	Group/ Category	Description	Dir Net
W 126 589 00 10 00 <sup>1)</sup>	46/ B	Screwdriver Bit	4.20\$

<sup>1)</sup> This required Special Tool should already be in every dealer's tool inventory. Additional quantities can be ordered via the MBUSA Parts Department.

**Parts Information**

Qty.	Part Name	Part Number	Estimated Replacement Rate
1	Driver Airbag, Black	A 171 860 06 02 9116	100%

**Note:**

- Please be aware that only the part number(s) referenced in the Campaign Bulletin is 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:** Driver's Airbag, Replace (02-5077)

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)	Model Indicator(s)
46 920 41 7	02-5077	0.4	P2, Q3, Q6, Q9

## Hazardous Material Shipping Guidance

<b>Product Name:</b> Air bag	<b>Hazardous Properties:</b> Airbag contains initiating component which deploys (inflates) the airbag
<b>Product Numbers</b> A 170 460 02 98	

<b>STRAIGHT BILL OF LADING</b> ORIGINAL - NOT NEGOTIABLE							
PIECES	IN	HM	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT	RATE	CHARGES	CLASS
1 box		<b>X</b>	<b>Air bag modules, 9, UN3268, PGIII, EX2003030221</b>	<i>Write gross weight of box(es) here</i>			

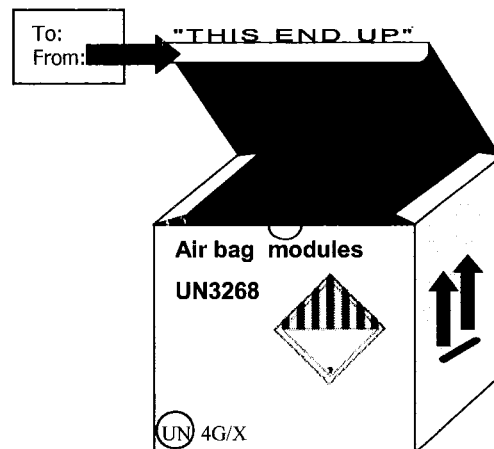
This is to certify that the above named materials are properly classified, described, packaged, marked and labeled and are in proper condition for transportation, according to the applicable regulations of the Department of Transportation.

SHIPPER *Signature*

*Include 24-Hour Emergency Response Contact Phone Number*

### Steps to Follow to Return an Airbag:

- Carefully open received box and remove new airbag. Keep the box intact and save it!
- Place **one** used airbag back into received box.
- **Must** use plastic adhesive packaging tape 50 mm wide to secure box closed. Do not obscure labels or text on box with tape.
- The following words ("marking") **must** be clearly visible on one side of the box:  
**Air bag modules, UN3268**
- A diamond shape label with black and white stripes on the top half (Class 9 Miscellaneous) **must** be clearly visible on the same side of the box.
- The **UN 4G** code preprinted near the bottom edge of the box **must** also be clearly visible.
- Include To/From address label on box.



# Hazardous Material Shipping Guidance

## For shipments using Overpacks

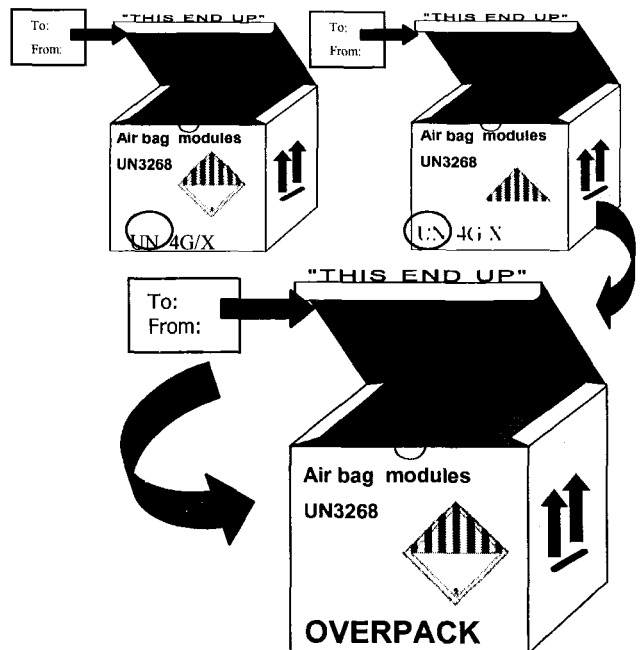
<b>Product Name:</b> Air bag	<b>Hazardous Properties:</b> Airbag contains initiating component which deploys (inflates) the airbag
<b>Product Numbers</b> A 170 460 02 98	

<b>STRAIGHT BILL OF LADING</b> ORIGINAL - NOT NEGOTIABLE							
PIECES	IN	HM	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT	RATE	CHARGES	CLASS
50 boxes		<b>X</b>	<b>Air bag modules, 9, UN3268, PGIII, EX2003030221, OVERPACK USED*</b>	<i>Write gross weight of box(es) here</i>			
<p>This is to certify that the above named materials are properly classified, described, packaged, marked and labeled and are in proper condition for transportation, according to the applicable regulations of the Department of Transportation.</p>							
SHIPPER: <i>Signature</i>							
<i>Include 24-Hour Emergency Response Contact Phone Number</i>							

\*Use the statement "OVERPACK USED" if you are using an OVERPACK.

### Steps to Follow to Return an Airbag:

- Carefully open received box and remove new airbag. Keep the box intact and save it!
- Place **one** used airbag back into received box.
- Use plastic adhesive packaging tape 50 mm wide to secure box closed. Do not obscure labels or text on box with tape.
- The following words ("marking") **must** be clearly visible on one side of the box:  
**Air bag modules, UN3268**
- A diamond shape label with black and white stripes on the top half (Class 9) **must** be clearly visible on the same side of the box.
- Include To/From address label on each box
- The **UN 4G** code preprinted near the bottom edge of the box **must** also be clearly visible.
- Package each airbag in a separate box prepared with the statements/labels described above.
- If there is more than one airbag box, the individual airbag boxes may be placed inside a larger box to keep the shipment together.
- This larger box is called an "OVERPACK."
- The OVERPACK **must** have the identical markings and label as the boxes contained inside.
- The OVERPACK **must** have the "OVERPACK" statement on the same face as the hazard markings and labels.







Mercedes-Benz

**Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC**

 Klaus Ulkann  
 Vice President, Customer Services

**Safety Recall #2006020005**

March, 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 2005 - 2006 C-Class vehicles with regard to the driver's airbag. 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.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (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.

Your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will install a replacement airbag that is designed to be compatible with the existing NHTSA test. This service will be provided free of charge. The working time required 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 #2006020005.

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](http://www.MBUSA.com)



Mercedes-Benz registered trademarks of DaimlerChrysler AG.



P-RC-2006020005