



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC  
A DaimlerChrysler Company

March 31, 2006

06V-098  
(3 pages)

**SENT BY FAX 202-366-8065 AND CERTIFIED MAIL**

Daniel C. Smith  
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RECEIVED  
2006 APR -3 P 1:53

**Re: Part 573 Defect Information Report**

Dear Mr. Smith:

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 573, and on behalf of Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc. and our parent company, DaimlerChrysler AG (DCAG), this letter advises you of a safety related defect for certain Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Specifically, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) submits this report regarding the starter wiring harness on certain R-Class vehicles described below.

573.6(c)(1): Manufacturer's Name

Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc.  
Under Contract for DaimlerChrysler AG, Stuttgart, Germany.

Designated Agent: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC  
Montvale, NJ 07645

573.6(c)(2): Identification of Vehicles

Make	Line	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Mercedes-Benz	R-Class	2006	08/2005-02/2006



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573.6(c)(3): Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

Approximately 7,000 R-Class vehicles are potentially affected in the US.

573.6(c)(4): Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect

The estimated percentage of vehicles that are projected to actually exhibit chafing of the starter wiring harness, as described below, is less than 5%. No known cases of damaged starter wiring harness have been observed in the field.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect

DCAG has determined that, in production, the starter wiring harness may be routed incorrectly. This routing could lead to chafing of the protective sleeve covering the starter wiring harness at the engine mount cover. Over time, such chafing has the potential to wear through the protective sleeve and may expose the underlying starter wiring harness to further chafing, which could result in a drop in voltage and the loss of function of the electrical system.

573.6(c)(6): Chronology of Principal Events

The central quality control department observed chafing on the starter wiring harness on one (1) high mileage durability test vehicle. This observation initiated a field survey of customer vehicles. Chafing of the protective sleeve covering the starter wiring harness was observed in these vehicles, but none of these vehicles showed chafing of the starter wiring harness itself. Accordingly, DCAG has decided to initiate this recall campaign to check and reroute the starter wiring harness and if necessary replace affected parts exhibiting signs of chafing.

573.6(c)(8)(i): Remedy Program

MBUSA will conduct a voluntary recall campaign for the subject R-Class vehicles described above. The recall will be conducted in order to check and where necessary to correct, the routing of the wiring harness. In case of wear, the protective sleeve, and if necessary, the starter wiring harness, will be replaced on all affected subject vehicles.

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573.6(c)(8)(ii): Estimated Date of Owner Notification

MBUSA estimates owner notification will begin in late April, 2006

573.6(c)(10): Copies of Communications with Dealers or Purchasers

A copy will be provided when available.

573.6(c)(11): Copies of Proposed Owner Notification Letter

A copy will be provided when available.

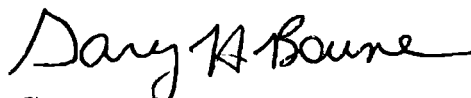
573.6(c)(12): Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

The MBUSA Recall Campaign Number will be provided when available.

\* \* \* \*

If you or your staff has any questions, please feel free to contact me at (201) 573-2719 or Mr. Stephen Kraitz, of my staff, at 201-573-4118.

Sincerely,



Gary H. Bowne  
Department Manager,  
Product Compliance, Analysis and  
Safety Engineering

cc: George Person fax 202-366-7882  
Thomas Z. Cooper fax 202-366-1767