



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

A DaimlerChrysler Company

March 31, 2006

06V-101
(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
MAY 1 2006
NHTSA

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 seat belt buckles 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	01/2006-03/2006



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

Approximately 2,500 R-Class vehicles are potentially affected in the US.

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

The percentage of vehicles that are projected to actually contain the issues described below is less than 1%.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect

DCAG has determined that, due to a production deficiency occurring at the supplier during the production process, the threads in the nut used to secure the seat belt buckle in a limited number of second row seats may be missing. The absence of the screw threads results in an incomplete connection of the buckle to the seat.

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

The quality control department of the manufacturing plant in Tuscaloosa, Alabama determined that certain seat belt buckles in the second row seats may not be secured properly due to the absence of the threads in the nut located in the seat structure. Accordingly, DCAG has decided to initiate this recall campaign to replace all affected seats on the subject vehicles.

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 if necessary to replace all affected seats of the subject vehicles.

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.

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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