



Mercedes-Benz

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HVS-215

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

A DaimlerChrysler Company

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL

2006 MAY -2 A 10: 34

April 28, 2006

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS 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 R-Class (251) Seat Belt Buckle

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 April, 2006.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

2006040003

NHTSA Recall Number

06V-101

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

Sincerely,

Gary Bowne
Department Manager, Product Compliance, Analysis and Safety Engineering
Engineering Services

GB:sk

Enclosure



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



Mercedes-Benz

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

From: Gary Bowne, Department Manager, Product Compliance, Analysis and Safety Engineering, Engineering Services

Date: April 26, 2006

Re: Recall Campaign 2006040003 – Second Row Seat Belt Buckle, Model 251 MY 2006

This Recall campaign has been initiated because DCAG has determined that due to a production deficiency occurring at the supplier during its 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.

This Recall campaign is being launched today and the 2,292 R-Class vehicles will be flagged in VMI. The dealer will check the second row seat belt buckles in affected vehicles and replace the seat if necessary in less than 1% of the vehicles.

In the unlikely situation that a second row seat needs to be replaced under this campaign, the dealer will use the fax form found in the Recall Campaign Bulletin to request a replacement seat, at no charge, directly from the seat supplier. A replacement seat will be shipped to the dealer usually in 24 hours.

Dealers are requested to provide alternate transportation to the customer during the period when the customer vehicle is waiting for a replacement seat using a sublet as described in the Recall Campaign Bulletin. Dealers are authorized to use this sublet for alternate transportation only if seat replacement becomes necessary. When claiming the sublet, dealers must clearly document within the dealer text the daily rental vehicle expenses and the number of days the vehicle was used.

Owner's letters will be mailed early next week.

Given this notice, it is illegal to retail affected new or used Model 251 MY 2006 vehicles in your inventory, as indicated in VMI, until the vehicle has been repaired.

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.

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.

Dealers may also identify vehicles subject to a campaign through **NetStar** by selecting "Campaign" under the Controlling tab. Only vehicles that have been retailed by the respective dealer will be displayed within this program.

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).

S
service

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

Campaign No. 2006040003, April 2006

TO: ALL MERCEDES-BENZ CENTERS

SUBJECT: **MODEL 251, MODEL YEAR 2006**
INSPECT SECOND ROW SEAT BELT BUCKLES; REPLACE SEAT(S) IF NECESSARY

This Recall Campaign has been initiated because DCAG has determined that due to a production deficiency occurring at a supplier, the threads in the nut used to secure the seat belt buckle in a limited number of second row seats of the affected vehicles (see VIN range below) may be missing. The absence of the screw threads results in an incomplete connection of the buckle to the seat.

Please review the Effective Serial Number chart located below.

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.

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

Approximately 2,292 vehicles are affected.

Effective Serial Number Range

Models	Chassis End Number	
	From	To
251.165	A013384	A022336
251.175	A015332	A022327

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.

Order No. T-RC-2006040003

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.

Recall Campaign Bulletin

Recall Campaign Bulletin

Recall Campaign Bulletin

Recall Campaign Bulletin

Procedure

A. INSPECT SECOND ROW SEAT BELT BUCKLES

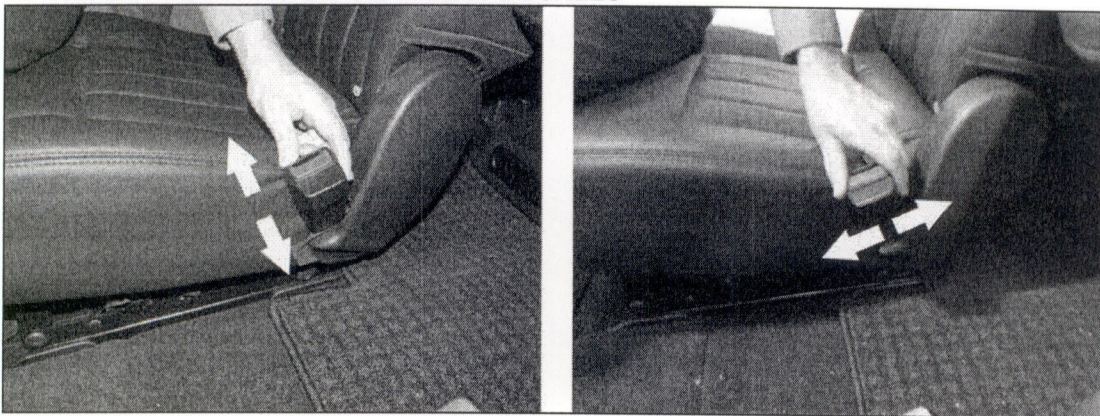


Figure 1

Figure 2

1. Inspect movement of seat belt buckles in second row seats in side-to-side (Figure 1) and back-and-forth directions (Figure 2).

Note:

The seat belt buckles should not move side to side, and should display resistance to back-and-forth movement.

2. Perform one of the following, depending on the results of step 1:
 - If a seat belt buckle moves side to side or moves back and forth without resistance: Proceed to **SUBJECT B to replace the appropriate seat(s)**.
 - If the seat belt buckles do not move side to side and display resistance to back-and-forth movement: This campaign has been completed.

B. REPLACE SECOND ROW SEAT(S)

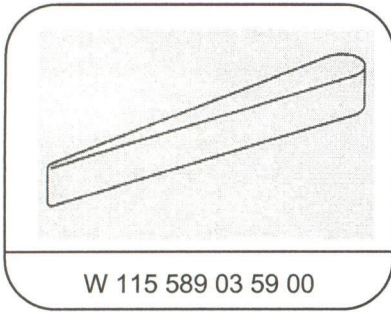
1. Order new seat(s) directly from Johnson Controls using attached fax form (see page 5).
2. Upon receipt of new seat(s): Replace seat(s), referring to WIS document AR91.12-P-1000RT.
 - Return seat(s) removed from vehicle to Johnson Controls (not the QEC) using packaging from replacement seat(s).

Note:

Refer to page 5 for all information required to return the affected seat(s).

Note:

The dealer is authorized to provide alternate transportation only if seat replacement becomes necessary. Use the sublet indicated on the following page for reimbursement of rental vehicle costs.

Special Tools

Long Wedge

Note: The noted Special Tool is classified as a “K” tool and can be ordered at the discretion of the dealer.

Parts Information

Qty.	Part Name	Part Number	Estimated Replacement Rate
1	Seat, Second Row ¹⁾	N/A	<1%
Days, as required	Rental Vehicle ²⁾	N/A	N/A

Note:

¹⁾ Seat(s) are to be ordered directly from Johnson Controls, as stated in the Procedure. Use the form on page 5 to order the new seat(s).

²⁾ Submit as a sublet utilizing code “SUB” and dollar rental vehicle amount; example: \$50 per day x 4 days = \$200. **Dealers are authorized to use this sublet for alternate transportation only if seat replacement becomes necessary.** When claiming the sublet, dealers must clearly document within the dealer text the daily rental vehicle expenses and the number of days the vehicle was used.

Note:

The following allowable labor operation should be used when submitting a warranty claim for this repair:

Warranty Information**Repair 1 (Check only)**

Operation: Buckle for Rear Seat Belt (2nd Row), Check (02-5303)

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)	Model Indicator(s)
92 910 33 8	02-5303	0.1	BA, BB

Repair 2 (Check and Replace One Seat)

Operation: Buckle for Rear Seat Belt (2nd Row), Check (02-5303)
Seat Specify Location..., Replace (After Check) (02-5304)

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)	Model Indicator(s)
92 910 33 8	02-5303	0.1	BA, BB
	02-5304	0.5	BA, BB

Repair 3 (Check and Replace Both Seats)

Operation: Buckle for Rear Seat Belt (2nd Row), Check (02-5303)
Seats (2), Replace (After Check) (02-5305)

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)	Model Indicator(s)
92 910 33 8	02-5303	0.1	BA, BB
	02-5305	0.9	BA, BB



Mercedes-Benz

**TELEFAX
MEMORANDUM**

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.

One Mercedes Drive, P.O. Box 350
Montvale, NJ 07645-0350

To: Johnson Controls, Inc.		From:		Date:	
Name: Eric Knobloch		Name:		Date:	
Company/Department: SC2.SR251		Telephone Number:			
Location/Country: Cottdale, AL 35453 USA		FAX Telephone Number:			
FAX Number: 205-554-4008		Re: 2 nd Row Seat Order for 251 Model		Page <u>1</u> of <u>1</u>	
PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL information intended only for the use of the addressee(s) named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient(s), please note that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. Anyone who receives this communication in error should notify us immediately by telephone and return the original message to us at the address listed above via the U.S. Mail.					

SAFETY RECALL # 2006040003

TO: Johnson Controls, Inc.
15911 Progress Drive
Cottdale, AL 35453 USA

ATTN: Mr. Eric Knobloch
Keyword: SC2.SR251

VIN: 4JG _ _ _ _ _

Second Seat Row : left right

Seat Color : _____ Color Code: _____

Equipment (leather, etc.) : _____

Deliver to M-B Dealership : Name of Dealer : _____ Dealer Code: _____

Street Address : _____

City/Town : _____

Zip Code : _____

Name of Dealer Contact Person: _____

Contact Person Phone Number : _____

**Return warranty part(s) in original packaging labeled "Recipient to Pay Charges."
Delivery is generally made within 24 hours.**



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Klaus Ulkann
Vice President, Customer Services**Safety Recall #2006040003**

April, 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 2006 R-Class vehicles with regard to the second row seat belts. 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 a production deficiency occurring at the supplier during its 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. In the event of a crash, a seat occupant may not be properly restrained increasing the risk of personal injury.

Your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will inspect and if necessary replace your second row seat. This service will be provided free of charge. The working time required to check this condition is approximately 15 minutes. If a replacement seat belt buckle is required the seat must be removed and a replacement seat installed. 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 #2006040003.

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.

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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