



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*November 24, 2008*

MR. FRANK DIERTL  
GENERAL MANAGER, ENGINEERING SERVICES  
MERCEDES-BENZ USA, LLC  
PO BOX 350  
MONTVALE, NJ 07645-0350

NVS-215paw  
08V-608

SUBJECT: FRONT STRUT

DEAR MR. DIERTL:

This letter serves to acknowledge Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
MERCEDES-BENZ/S-CLASS/2007

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 08V-608

**Mfg's Report Date:** November 19, 2008

**Components:** SUSPENSION: FRONT

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 1,515

**Summary:**  
MERCEDES-BENZ IS RECALLING 1,515 MY 2007 S-CLASS VEHICLES. DUE TO A MANUFACTURING PROCESS FLAW AT THE SUPPLIER, THE RADIAL KNUCKLE OF THE FRONT STRUT MAY FAIL. THE RADIAL KNUCKLE FLAW MAY OCCUR AFTER SIGNIFICANT MILEAGE ACCUMULATION COMBINED WITH EXPOSURE TO HIGH CONTINUOUS STRESS BY DRIVING ON ROUGH ROADS.

**Consequence:**

IF A RADIAL KNUCKLE FAILS, THE STEERING CONTROL OF THE VEHICLE MAY BE AFFECTED, INCREASING THE RISK OF A CRASH.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL CHECK THE FRONT STRUT FOR THE PRODUCTION DATE. IF THE FRONT STRUT FALLS IN THE AFFECTED PRODUCTION RANGE, THE STRUTS WILL BE REPLACED. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING DECEMBER 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT MERCEDES-BENZ AT 1-800-367-6372.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Identify the supplier of the recalled component by corporate name and address. Identify by name and title the chief executive officer or knowledgeable representative of the supplier.

Copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [Patricia.wallace@dot.gov](mailto:Patricia.wallace@dot.gov), [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Person". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "P".

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement