



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*December 24, 2008*

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

NVS-215paw  
08V-682

**SUBJECT: POWER STEERING RACK**

**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/GL-CLASS/2008  
MERCEDES-BENZ/M-CLASS/2008  
MERCEDES-BENZ/R-CLASS/2008

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 08V-682

**Mfg's Report Date:** December 17, 2008

**Components:** STEERING: HYDRAULIC POWER ASSIST SYSTEM

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 577

**Summary:**

MERCEDES-BENZ IS RECALLING 577 MY 2008 GL-CLASS, M-CLASS, AND R-CLASS VEHICLES. A DEFECT MAY EXIST IN THE DRIVING PIN USED TO CONTROL THE OIL PRESSURE OF THE POWER STEERING.

**Consequence:**

IF A DEFECTIVE DRIVING PIN EXISTS IN A VEHICLE AND THE PIN BREAKS DURING NORMAL VEHICLE TURNING, THE NORMALLY AVAILABLE HYDRAULIC SUPPORT FUNCTION WILL NO LONGER FUNCTION AND STEERING WHEEL OPERATION WILL BE LIMITED.

**Remedy:**

MERCEDES-BENZ WILL REPLACE THE STEERING GEARS. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN DURING JANUARY 2009. OWNER MAY CONTACT MERCEDES-BENZ AT 1-800-367-6372.

**Notes:**

MERCEDES-BENZ RECALL NO. 2008120011. 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