



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Frank Dierl
General Manager, Engineering Services

June 2, 2008

SENT BY FAX 202-366-7882 AND CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
NVS-200, Room W45-306
Washington, D.C. 20590

**08V-242
(3 pages)**

Re: Part 573 Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Smith

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 573, and on behalf of our parent company, Daimler AG (DAG), this letter advises you of a voluntary safety related recall involving the Trailer Hitch installed on certain 2006 to 2008 Model Year Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

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

Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc.
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Under Contract for Daimler AG, Stuttgart, Germany.

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

573.6(c)(2): Identification of Vehicles

Make	Line/Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Mercedes-Benz	ML-Class, W164	MY 2006 - 2008	July, 2006 - April, 2008
	GL-Class X164	MY 2006 - 2008	July, 2006 - April, 2008



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

Approximately 52,740 trailer hitches (including the after market trailer hitches) are potentially affected in the US.

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

The percentage of trailer hitches that are projected to actually contain the defect described below is 13%.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect

Due to modification in the welding process at the supplier's manufacturing plant, some of the weld seams connecting the trailer hitch receiver to the attachment bar used to secure the trailer hitch to the body frame do not meet DAG performance specifications. This may result in the trailer hitch receiver separating from the attachment bar.

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

DAG has identified 5 field cases in which the failure noted above has occurred. In one of the cases a trailer hitch carrying a bicycle rack separated and the following vehicle struck the bicycles. There were no cases of reported injuries. After completing a number of process and part inspections, the company and its supplier identified the potential defect in the welding process. The production process has been modified to assure all welds meet DAG performance specifications.

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

MBUSA will conduct a voluntary recall campaign for the subject trailer hitches described above. The recall will be conducted to repair all potentially affected trailer hitches.

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

MBUSA estimates owner notification will begin in June, 2008.

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

Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign in June, 2008. The voluntary recall campaign is expected to commence in June, 2008. A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

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

A copy of the owner notification will be provided when available.

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

The MBUSA Recall Campaign Number will be 2008050004.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Gary H. Bowne at (201) - 573-2719.

Sincerely,


for F. Diertl