



July 15, 2008

08V-339  
(3 Pages)

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

**Re: Part 573 Information Report**

Dear Mr. Smith,

This letter is submitted by the Sprinter Engineering and Compliance Support Team, a division of Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, on behalf of our parent company, Daimler AG, pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 573. Specifically, this report advises you of a safety campaign involving certain steering columns sold as spare parts in the US market for use on model year 2001-2006 Sprinter vehicles, badged as Dodge or Freightliner.

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

Daimler AG, Stuttgart, Germany

Designated Agent: Wolf-Dieter Kleimeier  
Sprinter Engineering and  
Compliance Support Team  
8501 Palmetto Commerce Pkwy  
Ladson, SC 29456  
Tel: (843)695-5041  
Fax: (843)695-5031

573.6(c)(2): Identification of Vehicles

<u>Make</u>	<u>Model / Type</u>	<u>Model Year</u>	<u>Inclusive Dates of Manufacture</u>
Sprinter	2500 and 3500	2001 - 2006	Parts production date: calendar week 11/2007



Is a registered trademark of Daimler, Stuttgart, Germany.

Sprinter Engineering and  
Compliance Support Team  
A Division of MBUSA, LLC  
8501 Palmetto Commerce Pkwy  
Ladson, SC 29456  
Phone (843) 695-5000  
Fax (843) 695-5031

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

As noted in paragraph (c) (7), information from the assembly plant led to the determination that casing tubes for the steering columns (casing tubes manufactured during production week 11/2007) did not meet design specifications. Daimler, AG has determined that all but 27 spare steering columns sent to the US were from production weeks other than 11/2007. The 27 steering columns that have not had their production date verified have all been identified as have the vehicles that were repaired with the spare parts. Accordingly, 27 vehicles are the subject of this action

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

The percentage of vehicles that are projected to actually contain the issue described below is unknown.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect

The welding seam between the bracket and steering column of affected spare parts does not meet design specifications. The result of an out of specification welding seam is that the steering column may detach from its interior vehicle mounting bracket. In such a case, the steering column may detach from the interior of the vehicle body and a worst case consequence would be that the operator may lose steer ability of the vehicle.

573.6(c)(7): Basis for Determination of Defect

Production reports identified two steering columns detached from their bracket during the production process. Follow-up in the plant and at the supplier led to a discovery of the production week 11/2007 deviation. The deviation has been remedied.

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

Chrysler, LLC will conduct a voluntary recall campaign for the subject 27 Sprinter vehicles described above. The recall will be conducted in order to replace the potentially affected steering columns.

There will be no charge to owners of the subject vehicles. Daimler AG is unaware of any prior repairs of the affected parts but any owners who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for this condition prior to the recall will be reimbursed.

Chrysler, LLC will shortly determine when the action will begin, as well as when owner notification letters will be sent.

573.6(c)(9): Copies of Communication with Dealers and or Purchasers

A copy will be provided when available.

73.6(c)(10): Copies of Proposed Owner Notification Letter

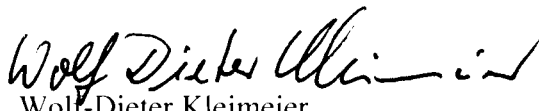
A copy will be provided when available.

573.6(c)(11): Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

The Recall Campaign Number will be provided when available.

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (843)695-5041 or Michael Scott of my staff at (843)6955057.

Sincerely



Wolf-Dieter Kleimeier  
General Manager  
Sprinter Engineering and Compliance  
Support Team



Michael D. Scott  
Safety and Emissions Compliance  
Sprinter Engineering and Compliance  
Support Team  
(843) 695-5057