



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
A Daimler Company

SENT BY CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

June 13, 2008

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Office of Defect Investigation
Attention: George Person, Chief Recall Management Division NVS 215
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: 49 CFR Part 573; Recall of Mercedes-Benz ML and GL Trailer Hitch

Dear Mr. Person:

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.6(c)(10), this letter contains 1 document that was communicated to our dealers on the above subject and will be submitted in the Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) regular monthly mailing for the month of June, 2008.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number
2008050004

NHTSA Recall Number
08V - 242

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

Sincerely,

Gary H. Bown
Department Manager
Product Compliance, Analysis, Safety and Emissions

GB:sk

Enclosure



Mercedes-Benz - are registered trademarks of Daimler, Stuttgart, Germany

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
One Mercedes Drive
P.O. Box 350
Montvale, NJ 07645-0350
Phone (201) 573-0600
Fax (201) 573-0117
www.MBUSA.com



Mercedes-Benz

MERCEDES-BENZ USA, LLC

One Mercedes Drive, P.O. Box 359, Montvale, NJ 07645-0359

Phone: (201) 274-0600

Fax: (201) 573-0107

MBUSA.com

UPDATE

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

FROM: Gary Bowne; Department Manager; Product Compliance, Analysis, Safety & Emissions; Engineering Services

DATE: June 9, 2008

RE: **Recall Campaign 2008050004 - Rework Trailer Hitch, Models 164, 164.8, Model Year 2006 - 2008 - Frequently Asked Questions**

Dealers have identified several questions concerning this Recall campaign which we have answered below:

1. What type of welding certification is required?

Any certified steel GMA (MIG) welder is acceptable. Examples of certification include, **but are not limited to**, American Welding Society (AWS), National Registry for Certified Welders (NRCW), I-CAR, ASE, GM, etc.

2. What if the welder does not have a "Welder's Certification Number?"

If the welder does not have a certification number, a training transcript or certificate indicating the date the GMA (MIG) Welding Qualification Test was successfully completed can be kept in the vehicle file.

3. What if we don't have a Certified Welder at our dealership?

Dealers without a certified welder can sublet the repair to a Mercedes-Benz certified body shop or other certified welder. Certified welders can be found in the phone directory - many are "mobile" and can bring their equipment to a dealership.

4. Are accessory trailer hitches also subject to the recall?

Yes. Vehicles with Flex-N-Gate accessory trailer hitches (where we were able to identify the VIN) have been flagged in VMI. The remaining accessory hitch owners will be notified shortly. Dealers can also check their over the counter accessory sales and if they can identify a customer/VIN that is not flagged in VMI, please contact WSG who will add the VIN to the campaign. The vehicle can then be repaired and the claim submitted under the recall.

5. Are trailer hitches manufactured by ORIS affected by the recall?

No. Some early Model 164 vehicles may have had trailer hitches manufactured by ORIS installed as a factory option or as an accessory. **These hitches are not affected by the recall campaign.** ORIS hitches can be identified by their **square-shaped** bumper reinforcement. Trailer hitches affected by the recall have a **round-tube** bumper reinforcement and are manufactured by Flex-N-Gate.



Mercedes-Benz

MERCEDES-BENZ USA, LLC

One Mercedes Drive, P.O. Box 330, Montvale, NJ 07645-0350

Phone (201) 573-0500

Fax (201) 573-0157

MerUSA.com

UPDATE

6. Can the parts required (preservation agent, aerosol primer, black aerosol paint, welding wire) be submitted as local purchase?

Yes. All parts are to be submitted as one local purchase part, using part number PTS01000, quantity of 1, handling is included (see page 6 of the bulletin). Reimbursement will be \$10.00 per vehicle. If these parts are not readily available from the PDC, you may purchase them locally and submit as previously described.

7. We have a vehicle that already has two additional front vertical welds. What should we do?

If the vehicle is below VIN A419400 and it has the front vertical welds required in the campaign already present, add the two rear vertical welds and close the campaign. If the VIN is A419400 or higher, the vehicle is not included in the campaign and does not need the trailer hitch repair.

8. What is the maximum amount allowable under a sublet repair?

The billable labor hours are 1.2 times the sublet shop's hourly rate, up to a maximum of \$225.00.

9. Can the dealer claim Labor Op Code 02-6046 for 0.2 hours if the repair is performed by a sublet shop?

Yes. This Labor Op Code can be claimed in addition to the sublet work and must be listed on the claim separately.

If you have any additional questions please contact you SPOM.