



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
A Daimler Company

SENT VIA CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

February 6, 2009

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 S-Class (221) vehicles to check the front struts and replace the ball joints, if necessary.

Dear Mr. Person:

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.6(c)(10), this letter contains 2 documents that were 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 February, 2009.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number
2009010002

NHTSA Recall Number
08V-608

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

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Brunner
Department Manager, Product Compliance, Analysis, Safety and Emissions

TB:sk

Enclosure

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newschannel UPDATE

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

FROM: R. Thomas Brunner; Department Manager; Product Compliance, Analysis, Safety & Emissions; Engineering Services

DATE: February 3, 2009

RE: **Recall Campaign 2009010002- Check Both Front ABC Struts, Replace Front Strut Ball Joints, If Necessary, Model 221, Model Year 2007**

On November 21, 2008 dealers were notified that Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC will conduct a voluntary Recall Campaign on certain Model Year 2007 S-Class (221) vehicles with regard to the front struts. This notification is posted on the NHTSA web site and may generate some customer questions.

Daimler AG (DAG) has determined a defect may exist in the ball joints of the front struts of affected vehicles due to a manufacturing process flaw at the supplier. During quality testing DAG detected the potential that ball joints of affected vehicles may not meet Mercedes-Benz long term durability requirements. Supplier investigation led to the identification of a production range which utilized the affected parts. If a ball joint on a vehicle fails the steer-ability of the vehicle may be affected and could lead to a vehicle crash.

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC therefore has initiated a recall of the front struts in all potentially affected vehicles. The production number of the front struts will be checked and if the front struts belong to the affected production range the ball joints will be replaced without charge.

The Recall Campaign is being launched today and the 1,524 affected vehicles will be flagged in VMI. The repair time is 0.2 hours to check for the affected production range and 1.4 hours to check and replace both ball joints. The ball joint replacement rate is approximately 30%.

Dealers may order replacement parts as required. Please note each ball joint kit contains 2 ball joints and a special tool.

A copy of the campaign bulletin is attached, and may also be found on StarTekInfo.

Owner notification will be sent approximately February 10, 2009.

While we regret any inconvenience this causes, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC is determined to maintain a high level of vehicle quality and customer satisfaction.

Please refer all customer inquiries to the Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372).

service