



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Alan J. McLaren
Vice President
Customer Services

**Safety Recall #2008-050004
Mercedes-Benz Trailer Hitch**

March, 2009

Dear Mercedes-Benz Owner,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Daimler AG (DAG), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain factory equipped and dealer installed (accessory) trailer hitches installed in certain Model Year 2006-2008 ML and GL-Class vehicles. Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) therefore has initiated a recall of these vehicles. Our records indicate that your vehicle was originally equipped with an unaffected factory installed trailer hitch, **but that you may have had the trailer hitch replaced with an affected trailer hitch during a collision repair. Accordingly, we are asking that you immediately check your vehicle to determine if you have an affected trailer hitch installed.**

WE SENT YOU THIS NOTICE BECAUSE WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR SAFETY.

DAG has determined that 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, creating a road hazard which may lead to a vehicle crash. **If your vehicle is equipped with an affected Mercedes-Benz trailer hitch (see reverse side for photo) please contact us at 1-(800) FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372) to be added to the recall campaign. The trailer hitch must not be used for any purpose until it has been repaired at an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.**

If your vehicle is equipped with an un-affected (see reverse side for photo) Mercedes-Benz trailer hitch, it is not included in the recall and you may disregard this recall letter.

Your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer is available to repair your trailer hitch to correct the situation described above. This service will be provided free of charge. The working time required is approximately 2 hours. As a matter of normal service process, your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will also check for other repair measures which might be applicable to your vehicle and this may increase the required working time. Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for additional information and to schedule an appointment at your earliest convenience after you have called us at 1-(800) FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372) to be added to the recall campaign. Please mention Recall Campaign #2008-050004.

If you are no longer the vehicle owner, or have a change of address, please complete the reverse side of this letter and return the complete letter in the enclosed envelope. If this is a leased vehicle and the lessor and registered owner receive this notice, please forward this information by first class mail to the lessee. If you have paid to have this recall condition corrected prior to this notice you may be eligible to receive reimbursement. Please see the reverse side of this notice for details.

Please contact your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer should you have any questions or encounter any difficulty regarding this recall. If your dealer is unable to remedy your situation please contact us at 1-(800) FOR-MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372).

If an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer or Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, fails or is unable to perform this service without charge within 60 days, pursuant to law 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We apologize for any inconvenience this situation may cause you.

Sincerely,



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One Mercedes Drive
P.O. Box 350
Montvale, NJ 07645-0350
Phone 1- 800-FOR- MERCEdes (1-800-367-6372)
Fax (201) 476-6211
www.MBUSA.com

IMPORTANT

IF FOR ANY REASON YOU DO NOT NOW OWN THIS VEHICLE OR HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PLEASE COMPLETE THE SECTION BELOW, PLACE IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, AND DROP IN ANY MAIL BOX. IF POSSIBLE, PROVIDE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PRESENT OWNER SO THAT WE MAY CONTACT THEM.

☐ **SCRAPPED**

☐ **STOLEN**

☐ **OTHER** _____

☐ **SOLD**

I HAVE SOLD THE VEHICLE TO: _____

☐ **MY NEW ADDRESS IS:** _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

APT. _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION

**** PLEASE DO NOT DETACH. RETURN COMPLETE LETTER ****
DO NOT USE THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE FOR OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

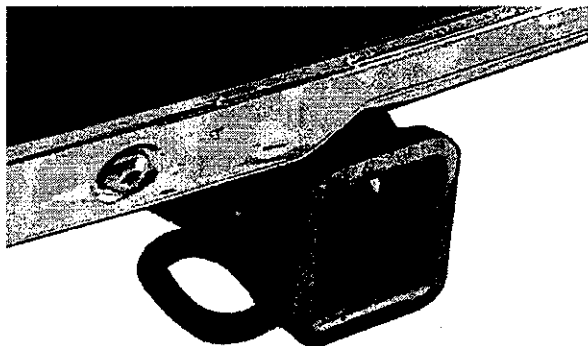
Reimbursement to Customers for Repairs Performed Prior to Recall

If you have already paid to have this recall condition corrected you may be eligible to receive reimbursement.

Requests for reimbursement may include parts, labor, fees and taxes. Reimbursement may be limited to the amount the repair would have cost if completed by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.

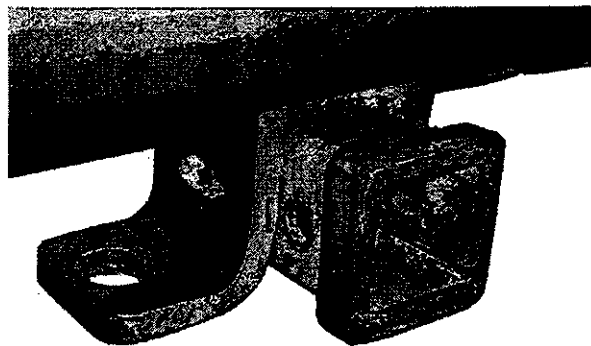
Please speak with your dealer concerning this matter.

Affected Trailer Hitch



Please contact us to be added to the recall campaign.

Un-Affected Trailer Hitch



Your vehicle is not affected by this recall campaign.