



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

A Daimler Company

SENT BY CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

March 20, 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 S and CL Front SAM.

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 March, 2008.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

To be determined

NHTSA Recall Number

To be determined

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

Sincerely,

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

GB:sk

Enclosure



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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: March 19, 2008

RE: Recall Campaign– **Replace Front SAM, Models 216, 221, Model Year 2008 - Retail Hold**

On March 17, 2007 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) was notified that Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC will conduct a voluntary Recall Campaign on certain model year 2008 CL-Class (216), and S-Class (221) vehicles with regard to the SAM-F (Signal Acquisition and Actuation Module-Front). This notification will be posted on the NHTSA web site and may generate some customer questions.

Daimler AG (DAG), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has determined a possible malfunction may occur in the subject vehicles SAM-F due to excess manufacturing stress involving the SAM-F transistors. One transistor in the SAM-F is a double transistor that helps control three vehicle functions:

- electrical supply of the wiper
- steering wheel adjustment function
- head lamp operation

A second transistor in the SAM-F helps control the lighting of the center console.

The cause of the possible malfunction of the SAM-F transistors results from incorrect storage of the transistors at the supplier which led to the transistors being exposed to excess humidity. The presence of this moisture in combination with the thermal stress during the "reflow soldering" may damage the transistors and prevent them from properly functioning. A malfunctioning transistor may cause the loss of operation of the headlamps, windshield wiper and steering wheel adjustment function or the center console lighting.

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) therefore has initiated a recall of these vehicles to replace all potentially affected SAM-F.

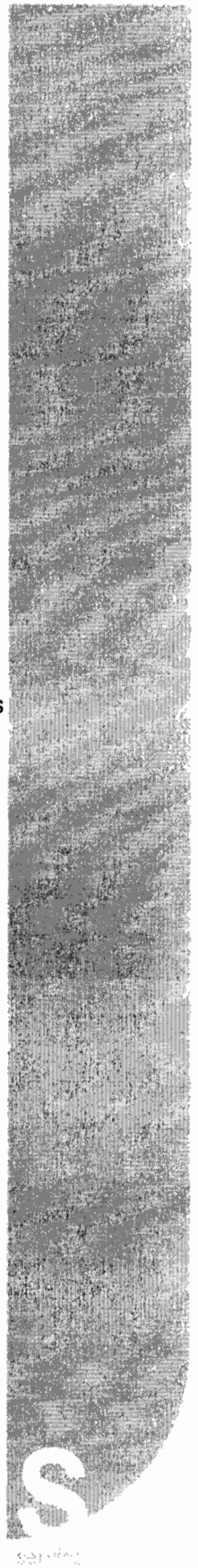
Given this notice, it is illegal to retail affected MY 2008, Model 216 and 221 vehicles in your inventory, as indicated in the attached VIN file, until the vehicle has been repaired.

Additional information concerning this recall and the vehicles on retail hold will be communicated by the end of next week.

This Recall Campaign affects approximately 3,283 vehicles in the U.S.

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 (1800-367-6372).



FILE: SERVICE: GROUP 00 OF SERVICE INFORMATION BINDER
PARTS: GROUP I OF INFORMATION – PARTS & ACCESSORIES BINDER

Campaign No. 2008030005, March 2008

TO: ALL MERCEDES-BENZ CENTERS

SUBJECT: **MODELS 216/221, MODEL YEAR 2008**
REPLACE FRONT SAM

This Recall Campaign has been initiated because Daimler AG (DAG) has determined a possible malfunction may occur in the subject vehicles SAM-F (Signal Acquisition and Actuation Module-Front) due to excess manufacturing stress involving the SAM-F transistors. One transistor in the SAM-F is a double transistor that helps control three vehicle functions: electrical supply of the windshield wipers, steering wheel adjustment function, and head lamp operation. A second transistor in the SAM-F helps control the lighting of the center console. A malfunctioning transistor may cause the loss of operation of the headlamps, windshield wipers and steering wheel adjustment function or the center console lighting. Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) therefore has initiated a recall of these vehicles to replace all potentially affected SAM-Fs.

Prior to performing this Recall Campaign:

- Please check VMI to determine if the vehicle is involved in the Campaign and if it has been previously repaired.
- Please review the entire Recall Campaign bulletin and follow the repair procedure exactly as described.

Please note that Recall and Service Campaigns **do not expire** and may also be performed on a vehicle with a vehicle status indicator.

Approximately 3,283 vehicles are involved.

Order No. P-RC-2008030005

This bulletin has been created and maintained in accordance with MBUSA-SLP S423QH001, Document and Data Control, and MBUSA-SLP S424HH001, Control of Quality Records.

Procedure

Note: Prior to starting the procedure ensure to:

- Use DAS 02/08 with all associated patches or higher.
- Follow the steps exactly as described in DAS.
- Connect battery charger (battery voltage: >12.5 V). (During front SAM replacement the batteries are disconnected. The charger should also be disconnected at that time.)

1. Connect Star Diagnosis to vehicle.
2. Transfer the settings of the front SAM control module to Star Diagnosis by navigating through the following screen menus: Main Groups/Control Units/Body/Dr-side SAM – Driver signal acquisition and actuation module (Interior CAN bus)/Initial startup/Initial startup with automatic takeover of previous control unit (Follow on-screen instructions).

Note (Regarding SDS on-screen instructions)

- **Both** batteries **must** be disconnected **before** replacing front SAM. Refer to WIS document (AR54.21-P-1260SX) because normalization must be performed after the SAM has been replaced. (Charger should be disconnected too).
 - Program new front SAM if so indicated.
3. Replace front SAM; refer to WIS:AR54.21-P-1260SX.
 4. Perform basic programming.

Primary Parts Information

Qty.	Part Name	Part Number	Replacement Rate
1	Front SAM	A221 545 16 32 05	100%

Note:

- Please be aware that only the part number(s) referenced in the Campaign Bulletin is/are approved for use to repair the vehicle. Repairs performed using any other part(s) will not have been performed in accordance with the campaign. Accordingly, warranty claims submitted with reference to an improper part number(s) will be denied.
- The following allowable labor operation should be used when submitting a warranty claim for this repair:

Warranty Information

Operation: Replace Front SAM (02-5994)
 Connect/disconnect Star Diagnosis (02-4762).
 Read-out erase fault memory (02-5059)
 Connect/disconnect battery charger (with SDS connected) (02-5058)

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)	Model Indicator(s)
54 918 01 7	02-5994	0.7	AA, AB, AC, AD, AE DA, DB, DC, DD
	02-4762	0.1	
	02-5059	0.1	
	02-5058	0.1	