



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
A Daimler Company

SENT BY CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

June 3, 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 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 June, 2008.

Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number
2008050004

NHTSA Recall Number
To be determined **08V-242**

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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Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

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 3, 2008

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

On June 2, 2008 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) was notified that Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC will conduct a voluntary Recall Campaign on certain Model Year 2006 - 2008 ML 164, and GL 164.8 vehicles with regard to the trailer hitch. 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 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. **The trailer hitch must not be used for any purpose until it has been repaired at an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.** Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) therefore has initiated a recall of these vehicles to repair all potentially affected trailer hitches.

Given this notice, it is illegal to retail any affected MY 2006 - 2008, Model 164 and 164.8 vehicles in your inventory, as indicated in the attached VIN file and VMI, until the vehicle has been repaired. ML and GL vehicles with a VIN of A419400 and higher are unaffected by this recall campaign and may be sold without the need for trailer hitch repair.

The Recall Campaign is being launched today and affects approximately 52,740 vehicles in the U.S. Dealers will repair the trailer hitch in all affected subject vehicles.

The repair time for this campaign is 1.2 hours. Owner notification will be sent by late-June, 2008.

The trailer hitch repair rate is 100%.

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

Note: Please check VMI to determine if a vehicle is involved in this campaign. VMI must always be checked before performing campaigns to verify that the campaign is required on a specific vehicle.

Dealers may also identify vehicles subject to a campaign through NetStar by selecting "Campaign" under the Controlling tab. Only vehicles that have been retailed by the respective dealer will be displayed within this program. **Unsold vehicles will not be displayed in this program but will appear in VMI. See dealer inventory VIN list provided.**

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).

FILE: SERVICE: GROUP 00 OF SERVICE INFORMATION BINDER
PARTS: GROUP 01 OF SERVICE INFORMATION - PARTS & ACCESSORIES BINDER

Campaign no. 2008050004, June 2008

TO: ALL MERCEDES-BENZ CENTERS

SUBJECT: **Models 164 and 164.8, Model Years 2006 - 2008**
Rework Trailer Hitch

This Recall Campaign has been initiated because Daimler AG (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. The trailer hitch must not be used for any purpose until it has been repaired at an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer. Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) therefore has initiated a recall of these vehicles to repair all potentially affected trailer hitches.

Attached is a sample copy of a letter which owners of the affected vehicle will receive.

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 52,740 vehicles are affected.

Order No. T-RC-2008050004

This bulletin has been created and maintained in accordance with MBUSA-SLP S423Q001, Document and Data Control, and MBUSA-SLP S424HH001, Control of Quality Records

Note: This vehicle repair requires welding to be performed. Welding is to be performed by a **CERTIFIED WELDER** certified for GMAW (Gas Metal Arc Welding) also known as MIG welding; WHO HAS BEEN CERTIFIED BY AN **ACCREDITED WELDER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM** (e.g., American Welding Society [AWS], National Registry for Certified Welders). Submitting a claim for reimbursement for this work constitutes dealer's representation that the work was performed by a certified welder as indicated above.

A. Prepare vehicle for welding

1. Disconnect negative battery cable, refer to WIS: AR54.10-P-0003GZ.

Note (regarding above WIS document):
Do **not** perform step 8.

2. Thoroughly cover area around trailer hitch with welding blankets (A, Figure 1).

Note:

Welding blankets can be purchased locally or by contacting: Reliable Automotive Equipment, Inc. @ (732) 747-1770.

3. Cover remaining exposed area with masking tape (arrows, Figure 1).

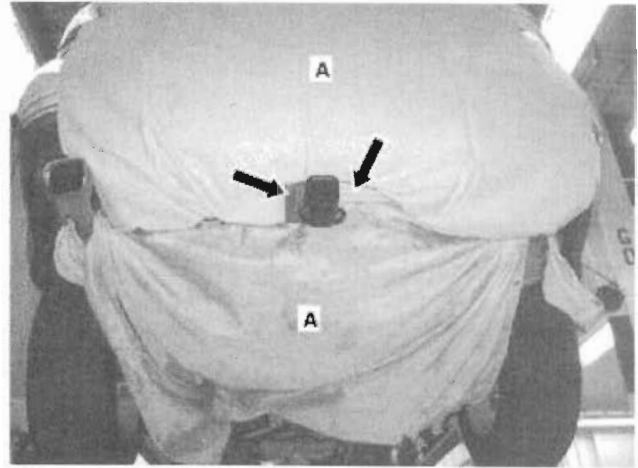


Figure 1

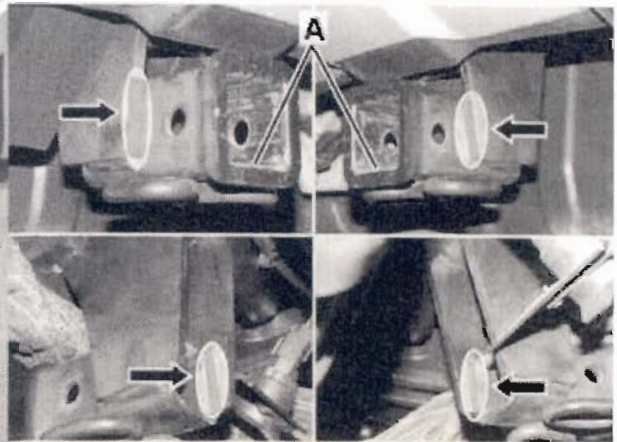
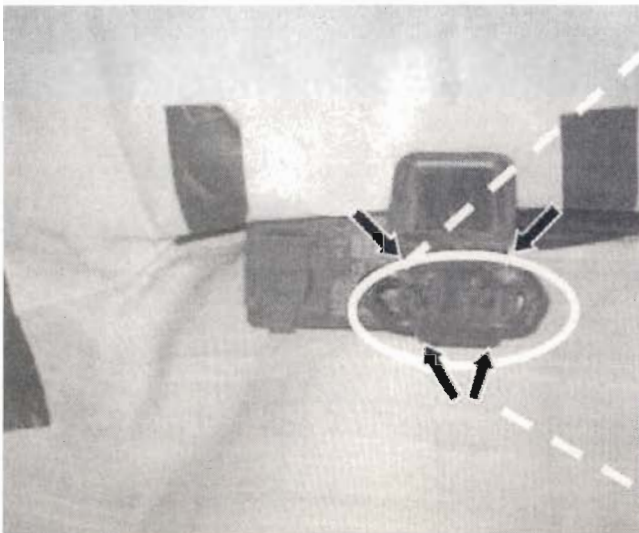


Figure 2

4. Thoroughly grind 4 weld point surfaces (arrows, Figure 2) and welder's ground point (A) down to bare metal using a die grinder with a burr bit (refer also to Figure 3 for view of weld points ground down).

WARNING!

Wear eye protection (safety glasses, face shield etc.) to prevent injury to eyes.

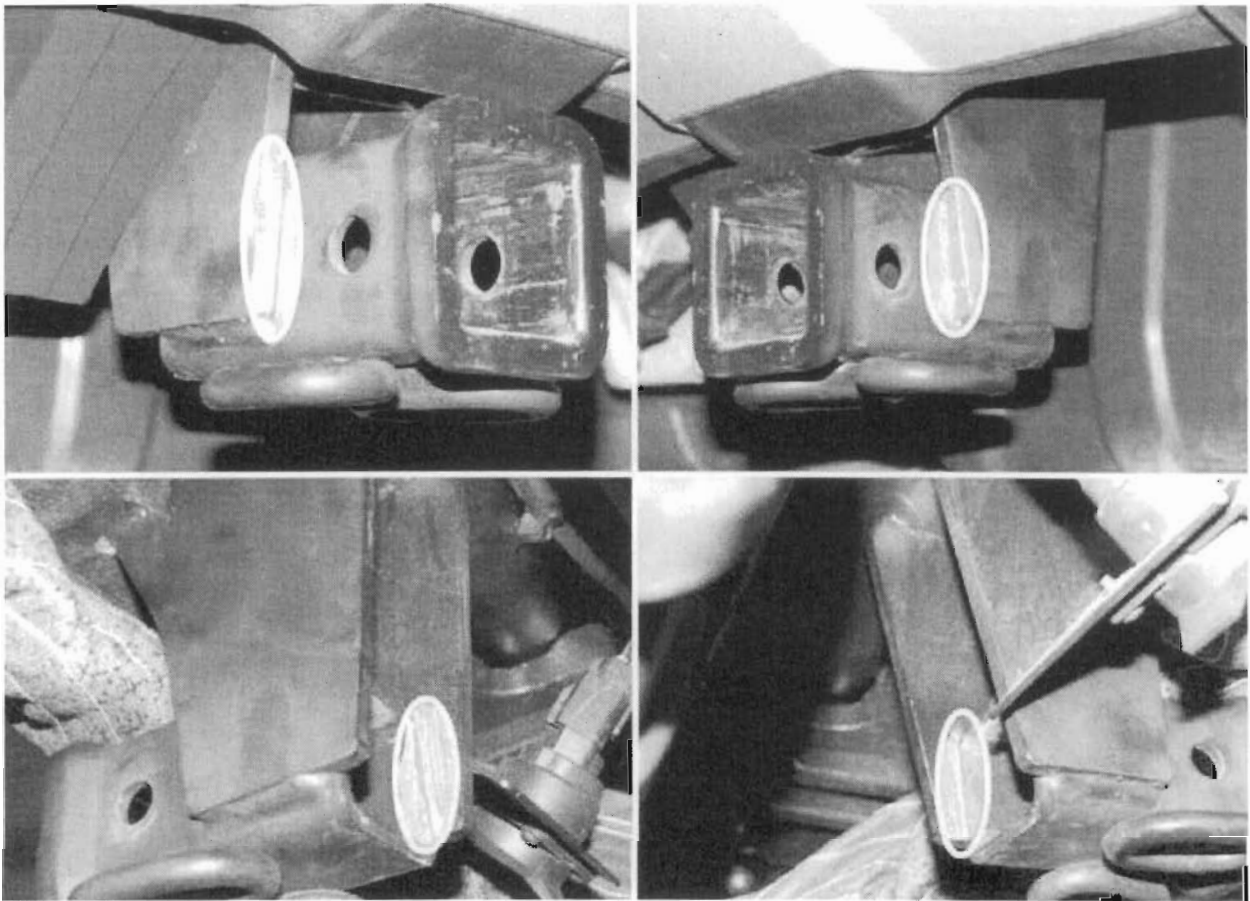


Figure 3

5. Attach welder's ground cable (arrow, Figure 4) to trailer hitch (A).

CAUTION!

Ensure ground cable (arrow) connection is inside square tube (A) or damage may result to SRS control module and/or air bags and emergency tensioning devices may deploy.

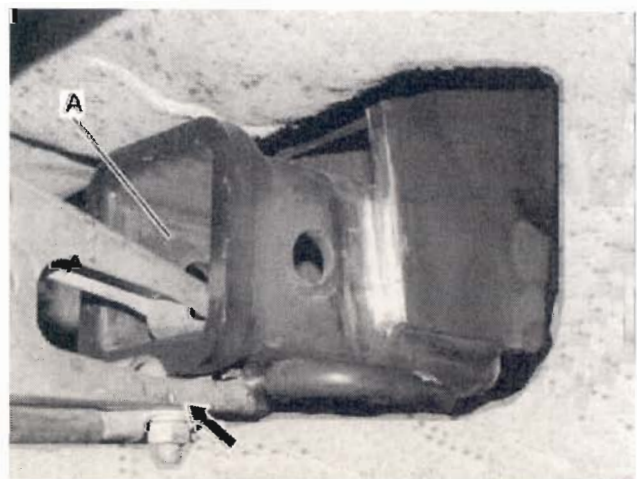


Figure 4

B Weld trailer hitch

CAUTION!

This vehicle repair requires welding to be performed. Welding is to be performed by a **CERTIFIED WELDER** certified for GMAW (Gas Metal Arc Welding) also known as MIG welding; WHO HAS BEEN CERTIFIED BY AN **ACCREDITED** WELDER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (e.g., American Welding Society [AWS], National Registry for Certified Welders). Submitting a claim for reimbursement for this work constitutes dealer's representation that the work was performed by a certified welder as indicated above.

WARNING!

- Risk of bodily injury. Ensure no one is inside vehicle during welding. Risk of air bags and/or emergency tensioning devices deploying during welding.
 - Protective welding clothing (gloves, jackets etc.), eye/face protective masks (welder's mask) must be worn or bodily injuries may result (burns to skin and eyes, impaired vision).
1. Adjust settings as per welding machine's operating instructions (voltage, amperage, wire speed etc.) for a material thickness of 8 - 10 mm (5/16" - 25/64").

Note:

Recommended welding machines:

- 505-285 made by Tecna
- 521-332001 made by Wielander and Schill
- 521-ATLW made by Wielander and Schill

All welding machines can be purchased and questions pertaining to them can be answered by calling the Mercedes-Benz Standard Service Equipment Program at (888) 458-4040.

Note:

Minimum specifications for welding machines:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Rated amperage: 200 - 250 A | • Wire diameter: .023" - .045" |
| • Duty cycle: 60% | • Wire feed: 2" per sec. (2 rolls) |
| • Rated voltage: 27 V | • Gas: 18% CO2 (Argon mixed gas) |
2. Weld front of trailer hitch (Figures 5 and 6).



Figure 5

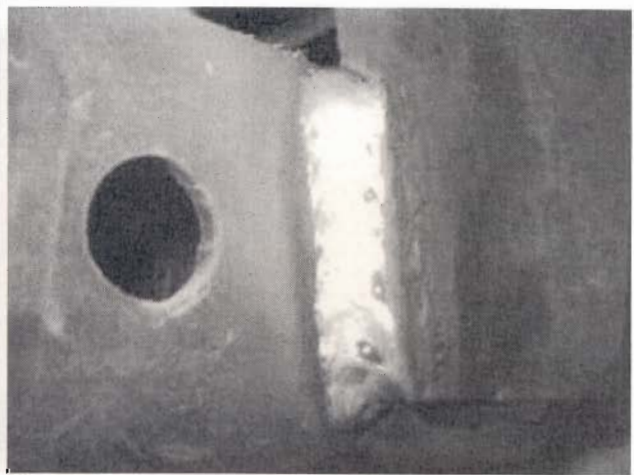


Figure 6

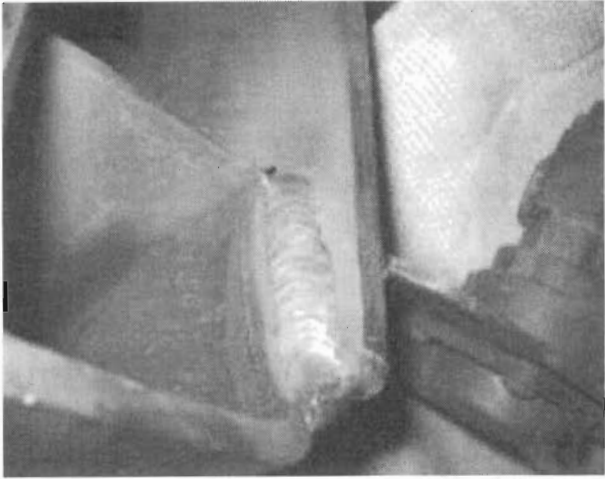


Figure 7

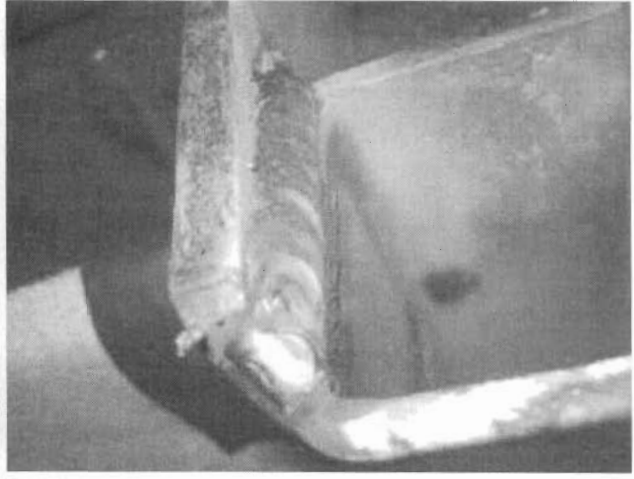


Figure 8

3. Weld rear of trailer hitch (Figures 7 and 8).
4. Clean new welding beads (at all 4 weld points) with a wire brush (Figure 9).

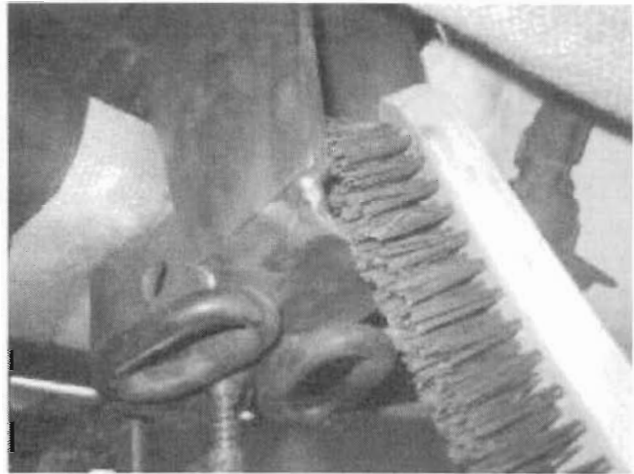


Figure 9

5. Thoroughly paint welding beads (Figure 10) and any metal exposed during grinding (in area of 4 weld points), and welder's ground point inside the square tube:
 - Apply black paint primer.
 - Paint with black paint.
6. Allow paint to dry then apply preservation agent to painted surfaces in area of welds.
7. Reassemble in reverse order.
8. Perform basic programming, refer to WIS: AR00.19-P-0200GZ.
9. Complete and sign quality assurance form (on page 8).

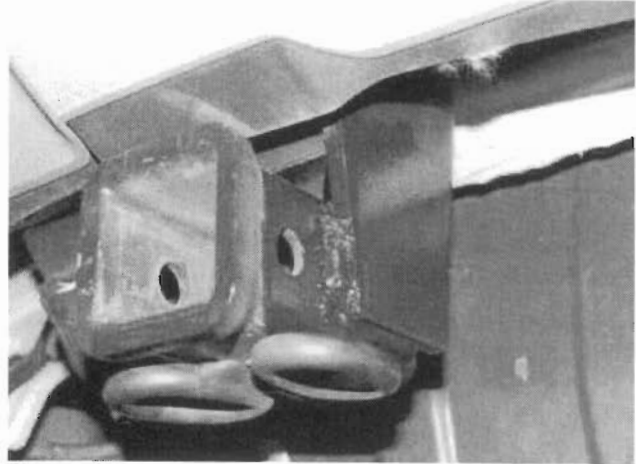


Figure 10

Parts information

Qty.	Part Name	Part number	Estimated Replacement Rate
1	Preservation agent	A 000 986 33 70 10 ¹⁾	100%
1	Aerosol primer	A 000 986 32 50 ²⁾	
1	Black aerosol paint	A 000 986 28 50 9040 ³⁾	
-	Welding wire	Wire dia.: .023" - .045"	

Note:

¹⁾ 1 container is to be used for 10 vehicles.

²⁾ 1 spray can of aerosol primer is to be used for 10 vehicles.

³⁾ 1 spray can of black aerosol paint is to be used for 10 vehicles.

All parts are to be submitted as one local purchase part, utilizing part number PTS01000, for a qty of 1, handling is included. Reimbursement will be \$10.00.

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**Repair 1**

Operation: Weld trailer hitch (02-6044)
Connect/disconnect battery ground cable (02-6046)

Damage code	Operation Number	Labor Time Est.	Model Indicator(s)
31 900 32 7	02-6044	1.0	Z1, Z2, Z3, Z4, Z5
	02-6046	0.2	EA, EB, EC

Repair 2

Operation: Repair required at facility other than dealership.
Connect/disconnect battery ground cable (02-6046)

Damage code	Operation Number	Labor Time Est.	Model Indicator(s)
31 900 32 8	Submit as a SUBLET utilizing sublet code of SUB with required amount.		
	02-6046	0.2	Z1, Z2, Z3, Z4, Z5 EA, EB, EC

QUALITY ASSURANCE CERTIFICATE FOR RECALL CAMPAIGN T-RC-2008050004

Check and quality items:

1. All four weld points (arrows, Figure1) and welder's ground point in square tube (A) ground down to metal ☐

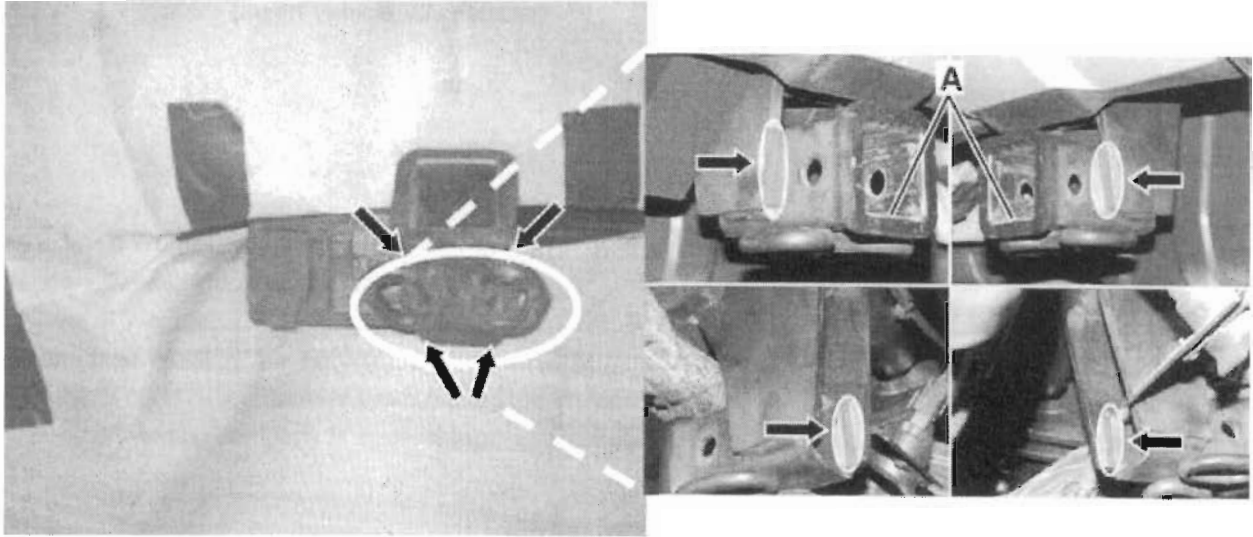


Figure 1

2. All four welds properly welded (Figure 2) at all 4 weld points (arrows, Figure 1) ☐

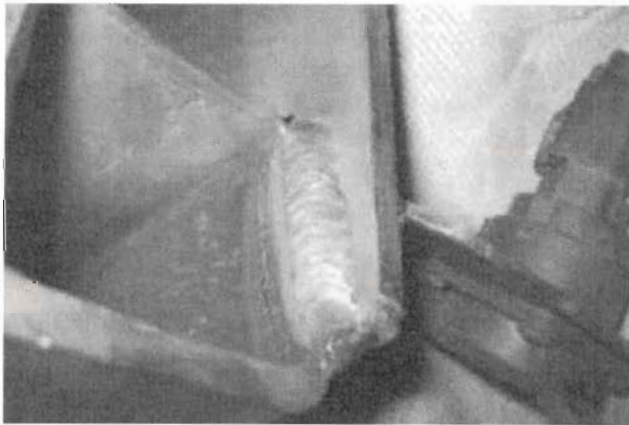


Figure 2

3. Trailer hitch painted in area of welds and square tube (inner) ☐
4. Preservation agent applied to trailer hitch in areas of welds ☐
5. Visual inspection performed by service manager ☐

I hereby confirm that the check and quality items were observed on the vehicle with
the VIN: 4JG
(Insert Vehicle VIN number)

Certified Welder

Date:

Name of Welder: Signature:

Accredited Welding Test Facility:

Welder's certification number (from Accredited Welder Test Facility):

Name of welding company (if applicable):

Service Manager

Date: Name: Signature:

Dealer number:

Place and maintain completed form in vehicle file.



Mercedes-Benz

Safety Recall # 2008 050004

June, 2008

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Alan J. McLaren
Vice President
Customer Services

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 the trailer hitch 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 is included in the affected population of vehicles.

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. **The trailer hitch must not be used for any purpose until it has been repaired at an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.**

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. 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,



Mercedes-Benz and related trademarks of Daimler, Stuttgart, Germany

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