



Mercedes-Benz

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March 06, 2009

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
A Daimler Company

SENT BY FAX 202-366-7882 AND CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL

Mr. Daniel C. Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
NVS-200, Room W45-306
Washington, D.C. 20590

09V-076
(3 Pages)

Re: Part 573 Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Smith

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 573, and on behalf of our parent company, Daimler AG (DAG), this letter advises you of a voluntary safety related recall for certain Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Specifically, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) submits this report regarding the sealing of the rear tail lamp assembly in certain 2009 Model Year Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Manufacturer's Name

Mercedes-Benz U.S. International, Inc.
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Under Contract for Daimler AG, Stuttgart, Germany.

Designated Agent: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
Montvale, NJ 07645

573.6(c)(2): Identification of Vehicles

Make	Line/Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Mercedes-Benz	M-Class, Model W164	MY 2009	July, 2008 - March 9, 2009

573.6(c)(3): Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

Approximately 16,130 Mercedes-Benz vehicles are potentially affected in the US.



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Phone (201) 573-0600
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www.MBUSA.com

573.6(c)(4): Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect

The percentage of vehicles that are projected to actually contain the issues described below could not be determined.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect

DAG has determined that as a result of a faulty seal around the rear tail lamp assembly, water may enter the rear compartment containing the spare tire. For vehicles equipped with the optional power lift gate, the control unit for the lift gate is located close to the spare tire compartment. Water contamination of the control unit for the power lift gate can result in disabling of the power lift gate motor and, in a worst case, causing a short circuit which could lead to a fire.

Production records indicate that vehicles equipped with an optional power lift gate and manufactured between July 2008 and March 9, 2009 are affected.

MBUSA is aware of one vehicle fire that may have resulted from water intrusion into the power lift gate control unit.

573.6(c)(6): Chronology of Principal Events

While investigating isolated field cases involving a malfunction of the power lift gate, DAG conducted a number of process and part inspections. The company and its supplier identified the potential impact from the leaking seal on the rear tail lamp assembly as the cause of the field cases. The parts involved have been modified to eliminate this potential problem.

573.6(c)(8)(i): Remedy Program

MBUSA will conduct a voluntary recall campaign for the subject vehicles described above. The recall work will involve replacement of the seal of the rear tail lamp assembly with a thicker one and repositioning the affected power lift gate control unit inside the chassis.

573.6(c)(8)(ii): Estimated Date of Owner and Dealer Notification

MBUSA estimates owner notification will begin in April 2009.

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573.6(c)(10): Copies of Communications with Dealers or Purchasers

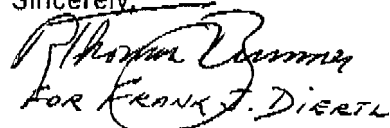
Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign in April 2009. The voluntary recall campaign is expected to commence in April 2009. A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

573.6(c)(11): Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

The MBUSA Recall Campaign Number will be provided when available.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. R-Thomas Brunner at (201) 573 - 2622.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of R-Thomas Brunner in cursive script.

For Frank J. Diertl
Frank J. Diertl
General Manager
Engineering Services