



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 21, 2015

Mr. R. Thomas Brunner
Dept Manager VCA
Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.
1 Mercedes Drive
Montvale, NJ 07645

NVS-215SM
15V-796

Subject: Onboard Charger Malfunction/Car may Shift to Park

Dear Mr. Brunner:

This letter serves to acknowledge Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

MERCEDES-BENZ/S550 HYBRID/2015

Mfr's Report Date: November 23, 2015

NHTSA Campaign Number: 15V-796

Components:

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM
HYBRID PROPULSION SYSTEM

Potential Number of Units Affected: 52

Problem Description:

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC. (MBUSA) is recalling certain model year 2015 S550 Hybrid vehicles manufactured April 24, 2015, to June 12, 2015. The affected vehicles are equipped with a high voltage onboard charger that may not have been built to specification, and as a result, the charging function for an external charging cable might not function and the onboard charger may incorrectly detect a charging cable, even while the vehicle is being driven.

Consequence:

If the charging cable is incorrectly detected and the vehicle is stopped or moving at a very slow speed, the vehicle may unexpectedly shift to park, increasing the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

MBUSA will notify owners, and dealers will replace the onboard charger, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in early January 2016. Owners may contact MBUSA customer service at 1-800-367-6372.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Sarah Mcshane who may be reached by phone at 202-366-7401, or by email at sarah.mcshane@dot.gov or through the office email at rmd.odi@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jennifer Timian
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement