

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 16V-306

**Manufacturer Name :** Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.

**Submission Date :** MAY 27, 2016

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 16V-306

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 2016050008



## Manufacturer Information :

**Manufacturer Name :** Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.

**Address :** One Mercedes Dr, PO Box 350  
Montvale NJ 07645-0350

**Company phone :** 1-800-367-6372

## Population :

**Number of potentially involved :** 327

**Estimated percentage with defect :** NR

## Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2016-2016 Mercedes-Benz SLK-Class, Roadster

**Vehicle Type :** LIGHT VEHICLES

**Body Style :** 2-DOOR

**Power Train :** GAS

**Descriptive Information :** 172.438 PK3J 305 vehicles  
172.457 PK5H 19 vehicles  
172.475 PK7F 3 vehicles

**Production Dates :** JAN 19, 2016 - APR 19, 2016

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :** NR **End :** NR

Not sequential

## Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** Daimler AG ('DAG'), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles has determined that on certain SLK vehicles (172 platform), improperly manufactured locknuts might have been used on the tie rod screw-connection to the rear axle wheel carrier. These potentially affected locknuts may not fulfill the required pre-tension force despite the correct tightening torque.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** An improperly manufactured locknut on the connection between tie rod and wheel carrier could skip a thread on the tie rod ball joint. Subsequently, the pre-tension force of this connection could be reduced, but it will not completely separate. However, loosening of the screw-connection might lead to a change of alignment and independent steering of the rear axle. This could increase the risk of a crash.

**Description of the Cause :** Due to excessive etching in the manufacturing process at a supplier, a certain batch of locknuts might not meet the required material characteristics.

Identification of Any Warning NR  
that can Occur :

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

Name : HEWI G.Winker GmbH & Co. KG  
Address : Dellinger Weg 1  
Spaichingen FOREIGN STATES 78549  
Country : Germany

## Chronology :

In late September of 2015, potential improperly manufactured parts were delivered from the supplier to Daimler's manufacturing plant in Bremen (Germany). On December 12, 2015, the issue was identified on the assembly line of Daimler's Bremen-plant on a different screw-connection which was outside of specifications. In-depth analysis and testing was performed by the DAG R&D and Quality departments. The issue was then handed over to the Supplier Quality division. In Mid-January 2016, the supplier provided identification of the potential improperly manufactured batches, and a plant action was launched accordingly at the Daimler manufacturing plant in Bremen, Germany to contain all potentially affected vehicles. After identifying further locknuts outside specification beyond the official clean point, a task-force was established at DAG in March 2016 to conduct further analysis and ultimately achieve accurate containment of the potentially affected locknut-batches. In late April, 2016, the task-force had concluded all investigations. In early May 2016, DAG determined that a potential safety risk cannot be ruled out.

## Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : An authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will replace the locknuts on the tie rod screw-connection to the rear axle wheel carrier. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 577.11(e), MBUSA does not plan to provide notice about pre-notice reimbursement to owners since all involved vehicles remain covered under the new vehicle warranty.

How Remedy Component Differs NR  
from Recalled Component :

Identify How/When Recall Condition NR  
was Corrected in Production :

**Recall Schedule :**

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign in May, 2016. A copy of all communications will be provided when available. Owners will be notified in June 2016, approximately one week after recall launch to the dealers.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

\* NR - Not Reported