

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

17V-448

Manufacturer Name : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.

Submission Date : JUL 16, 2017

NHTSA Recall No. : 17V-448

Manufacturer Recall No. : NR



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 : 5,061

Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2016-2016 smart fortwo

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 2-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : 453.353 FJ5D 5061 Vehicles

Recall population was determined by analysis using production data. Recalled products do not contain remedy component.

Production Dates : JUN 16, 2015 - AUG 12, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Daimler AG ('DAG') has determined that on certain smart fortwo vehicles (453 platform) the lock nut that secures the bowden cable to the parking brake lever might loosen over time which may result in increased parking brake lever travel

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Should the parking brake lever travel increase, the holding force of the parking brake might decrease to a point where the vehicle is no longer safely secured in all parking situations. In such an event, should the safe parking recommendations in the Operator's Manual not be followed (gear engaged or transmission in "P" and parking brake applied), the vehicle might unexpectedly move when parked on a slope. This could increase the risk of an accident.

Description of the Cause : Due to the adjustment of the parking brake during the manufacturing process, the self-locking properties of the installed nut might be compromised. The nut might gradually loosen over time upon application of the parking brake lever.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The customer may be made aware of the issue by an increased parking brake lever travel.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

In mid 2016, DAG launched initial investigations based on an individual field report from outside the US describing an instance in which the customer allegedly experienced the subject condition outlined above. Analysis was conducted to identify the potential root cause of this claim and to understand the occurrence of any similar allegations in the field. Initial results suggested an issue with the lock nut at the parking brake bowden cable.

Further investigations were performed to check the supplier and manufacturing processes to identify possible root causes of this issue.

In late 2016, investigation results showed that the lock nut microencapsulation might be impaired due to adjustment of the parking brake within the manufacturing process.

In early 2017, DAG started in-vehicle tests of potential effects of a reduced self-locking function of the nut.

In April 2017, these tests results indicated no risk of loosening of the nut at the parking brake bowden cable due to vibrations during vehicle operation. Further testing was set up to analyze other factors potentially influencing lock nut movement.

In June 2017, loosening of the nut was reproduced during further testing as a result of frequent parking brake lever application and release. Further analysis was done to identify potentially affected vehicles.

In July 2017, DAG determined that a potential safety risk cannot be ruled out.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : As a precautionary measure, and authorized Mercedes-Benz smart dealer will replace the lock nut on the affected vehicles. 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 from Recalled Component : NR

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

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers will be notified of the voluntary recall campaign initially in July 2017. A copy of all communications will be provided when available. Owners will be notified in early September 2017, approximately one week after recall launch to the dealers.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

* NR - Not Reported