



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 9, 2018

Mr. Greg Gunther  
Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.  
13470 International Parkway  
Jacksonville, FL 32218

NEF-150JK  
18V-273

**Subject:** Insulation Mat may Deform and cause Fire

Dear Mr. Gunther:

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:**

SMART/FORTWO/2008-2009

**Mfr's Report Date:** April 27, 2018

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 18V-273

**Components:**

ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING:ENGINE  
ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING:EXHAUST SYSTEM

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 42,781

**Problem Description:**

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC. (MBUSA) is recalling certain 2008-2009 smart fortwo cabrio and fortwo coupe vehicles. The rear insulation mat in the engine compartment may deform, deteriorate, and loosen over time, allowing the mat to contact hot exhaust system components.

**Consequence:**

If the mat contacts hot exhaust system components, it can increase the risk of a fire.

**Remedy:**

MBUSA will notify owners, and dealers will replace the rear insulation mat with an improved one, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin in July 2018. 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](http://www.safercar.gov).

This recall was the subject of an engineering analysis, EA17-003, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

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 Jennifer Kruger who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-2461, or by email at [jennifer.kruger@dot.gov](mailto:jennifer.kruger@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



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