

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

18V-725

Manufacturer Name : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.

Submission Date : NOV 28, 2018

NHTSA Recall No. : 18V-725

Manufacturer Recall No. : 2018110002



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.

Address : 13470 International Parkway
Jacksonville FL 32218

Company phone : 1-877-496-3691

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 4,073

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz C300

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : 205.048 WF4J 63 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles not affected by the recall have the correct battery cover installed.

Production Dates : AUG 22, 2017 -NOV 23, 2017

VIN Range 1 :Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz C300 4MATIC

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : 205.049 WF4K 136 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles not affected by the recall have the correct battery cover installed.

Production Dates : AUG 22, 2017 -NOV 23, 2017

VIN Range 1 :Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz C300 Coupe

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 2-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : 205.348 WJ4J 166 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles not affected by the recall have the correct battery cover installed.

Production Dates : AUG 22, 2017 -NOV 23, 2017

VIN Range 1 :Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz C300 4MATIC Coupe

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 2-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : 205.349 WJ4K 55 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles not affected by the recall have the correct battery cover installed.

Production Dates : AUG 22, 2017 -NOV 23, 2017

VIN Range 1 :Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz C300 Cabrio

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 2-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : 205.448 WK4J 142 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles not affected by the recall have the correct battery cover installed.

Production Dates : AUG 22, 2017 -NOV 23, 2017

VIN Range 1 :Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 6 : 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz C300 4MATIC Cabrio

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 2-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : 205.449 WK4K 118 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles not affected by the recall have the correct battery cover installed.

Production Dates : AUG 22, 2017 -NOV 23, 2017

VIN Range 1 :Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 7 : 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz E300

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : 213.048 ZF4J 2011 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles not affected by the recall have the correct battery cover installed.

Production Dates : AUG 22, 2017 -NOV 23, 2017

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 8 : 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz E300 4MATIC

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 4-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : 213.049 ZF4K 1382 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles not affected by the recall have the correct battery cover installed.

Production Dates : AUG 22, 2017 -NOV 23, 2017

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 Model Year ("MY") 2018 C-Class (205 platform) and E-Class vehicles (213 platform), an incorrect cover for the starter battery may have been installed. The incorrect cover may not have the required geometry to fully cover a live electrical wire.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In the event of a crash with substantial deformation of the brace strut above the battery, the brace strut might contact an uncovered live electric wire which could lead to a short circuit. In this case, the on-board electrical system might not be able to support post-crash functions (e.g. emergency door unlocking or activation of hazard warning lamps may not be available). Unlocking and opening of the doors from the inside is not affected. Furthermore, a short circuit could lead to an increased risk of fire.

Description of the Cause : A documentation error may have resulted in a potentially incorrect battery cover to be installed on the starter battery.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The customer will not receive an advance warning due to the nature of the failure mechanism.

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

In September 2017, DAG launched initial investigations based on a report from the production plant regarding the installation of wrong positive pole covers for the starter battery.

In October 2017, a documentation error following a design change was identified as the root cause of the installation of an incorrect starter battery cover.

It was then determined that only vehicles produced for the US and Canada have been fitted with the wrong battery cover.

In the end of 2017, the range of potentially affected vehicles was determined.

In early 2018 multiple analyses were performed to evaluate possible consequences of the installation of an incorrect battery cover. The analyses confirmed that an incorrect battery cover might not provide the necessary covering for the electrical cable on the battery.

In February 2018 analyses showed that one of the two specific areas, not completely covered, is not under permanent voltage.

Beginning in March 2018, further analysis was performed to evaluate the possibility of a contact between the live electric cable and surrounding metallic parts in case of a crash.

By May 2018 several standard crash test scenarios were analyzed in detail.

Additionally, investigations of actual crash cases were conducted through August 2018.

In September 2018 DAG determined that in specific crash situations with a heavy deformation of the brace strut, this strut might get in contact with the electrical cable on the starter battery

In early October 2018, DAG decided that a potential safety risk cannot be ruled out.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : As a precautionary measure an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will replace the positive pole cover 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 : A battery cover with the correct physical dimensions to provide sufficient cover for the electrical cable on the battery.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : A change of the documentation ensures that this issue can no longer occur from November 24, 2017 onwards.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers will be notified of the pending campaign in October 2018. A copy of all communications will be provided when available. Owners will be notified with a letter in November 2018, approximately one week after recall launch to dealers.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NOV 19, 2018 - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NOV 27, 2018 - NR

* NR - Not Reported

The information contained in this report was submitted pursuant to 49 CFR §573