

TO: Mercedes-Benz Dealer Principals, General Managers, Sales Managers, Service Managers, Parts Managers

FROM: Gregory Gunther, Department Manager, Vehicle Compliance and Analysis, Engineering Services

RE: **Recall Campaign Launch Notification**
Implausible Seatbelt Detection
MY18-19 213, 253, 257, 290, 463 (CLS-Class, E-Class, G-Class, GLC-Class, GT-Class)

Date: March 7, 2020

IMPORTANT RECALL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Please see the attached documents related to the campaign listed above.

Please note that all customer inquiries should be directed to the Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-FOR-MERCEDES.

Sincerely,

Gregory Gunther

Department Manager, Vehicle Compliance & Analysis



Campaign No. :	NHTSA ID	Campaign Desc. :	Implausible Seatbelt Detection
2020020017	19V788	19P9190308	
<p>This is to notify you of a Recall Campaign Launch involving the front seatbelt buckles on 29,720 Model Year ("MY") 2018-2019 CLS-Class, E-Class, G-Class, GLC-Class, and GT-Class (213, 253, 257, 290, 463 platform) vehicles. The recall campaign will be visible on the www.safercar.gov website and may generate questions from customers. Affected VINs will be flagged in VMI as "OPEN" on March 7, 2020</p>			
Background			
Issue	<p>Mercedes-Benz AG ("MBAG"), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has determined that on certain Model Year 18-19 ("MY") C-Class (205 platform), GLC-Class (253 platform), E-Class (213 platform), CLS-Class (257 platform), GT-Class (290 platform) and G-Class (463 platform) vehicles, certain front seat belt buckles might not have been manufactured according to current production specification. In affected vehicles, a correctly latched seat belt could be erroneously detected as not latched. As a result, neither the electric PRE-SAFE® function nor the pretensioner would be activated in the event of a crash in which the restraint systems are activated. Thus, the full effect of the restraint system could be impaired, increasing the risk of injury for the front passengers.</p>		
What We're Doing	<p>MBUSA will conduct a voluntary recall. An authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will check the relevant seat belt buckles in the affected vehicles and replace them if necessary.</p>		
Parts	<p>Parts are available and can be ordered as necessary. Tool kits are available and will be allocated to dealers by March 6, 2020.</p>		
Vehicles Affected			
Vehicle Model Year(s)	2018-2019		
Vehicle Model	CLS-Class, E-Class, G-Class, GLC-Class, GT-Class		
Vehicle Populations			
Total Recall Population	29,720		
Total Vehicles in DLR Inventory	1,060		
<p>Given this notice, it is a violation of Federal law for a dealer to sell or lease any new MY18-19 CLS-Class, E-Class, G-Class, GLC-Class, GT-Class vehicles in dealer inventory covered by this notification until the vehicle has been repaired. Once the remedy is available, the vehicles will be flagged as "OPEN" and Work Instructions will be available in Star TekInfo Once the repair is complete, the vehicle may be sold or leased.</p>			
<p>Loaner and demonstrator vehicles may continue to be driven, but must not be retailed until repaired. As a matter of normal service process, please check for other repair measures which might be applicable to the vehicle(s)</p>			
<p>Additionally, given this notice, it is a violation of Federal Law for car rental companies to rent new MY18-19 CLS-Class, E-Class, G-Class, GLC-Class, GT-Class vehicles covered by this notification until the vehicle has been repaired.</p>			
Next Steps/Notes			
Customer Notification Timeline	Customer letters will be mailed approximately one week after the remedy becomes available.		
AOMS/SOMS	AOMs - This recall may generate questions from your dealers. Please forward this notice to your dealers ASAP.		
Rental Fleet Partners	This recall may affect vehicles in your fleet. Please contact your respective MBUSA fleet representative for further information and next steps. For repairs, please contact your preferred MBUSA dealer.		





Mercedes-Benz

Campaign No. 2020020017, March 2020

TO: ALL MERCEDES-BENZ CENTERS

SUBJECT: **Models Various**
Model Year 2018-2019
Implausible Seat Belt Detection

Mercedes-Benz AG ("MBAG"), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has determined that on certain Model Year 18-19 ("MY") C-Class (205 platform), GLC-Class (253 platform), E-Class (213 platform), CLS-Class (257 platform), GT-Class (290 platform) and G-Class (463 platform) vehicles, certain front seat belt buckles might not have been manufactured according to current production specification. In affected vehicles, a correctly latched seat belt could be erroneously detected as not latched. As a result, neither the electric PRE-SAFE ® function nor the pretensioner would be activated in the event of a crash in which the restraint systems are activated. Thus, the full effect of the restraint system could be impaired, increasing the risk of injury for the front passengers. An authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will check the relevant seat belt buckles in the affected vehicles and replace them if necessary.

Prior to performing this Recall Campaign:

- Please check VMI to determine if the vehicle is involved in the Campaign and if it has been previously repaired. Always Check VMI for any open campaigns, and perform accordingly.
- **VMI must always be checked before performing campaigns to verify that the campaign is required on a specific vehicle. Always check for any other open campaigns, and perform accordingly.**
- Please review the entire Recall Campaign bulletin and follow the repair procedure exactly as described.

Please note that Recall Campaigns **do not expire** and may also be performed on a vehicle with a vehicle status indicator.

Approximately 29720 vehicles are involved.

Order No. P-RC-2020020017

This bulletin has been created and maintained in accordance with MBUSA-SLP S423QH001, Document and Data Control, and MBUSA-SLP S424HH001, Control of Quality Records.

Check/test procedure A

- i** The test is to be carried out on the **driver's side** and **front passenger side**.
All doors must be closed during the test.

Test: Driver's side seat belt buckle

1. Sit on the front seat on the driver's side and close the door.
 - i** No one may be seated on the front passenger seat during the test.
 - i** **All** doors must be closed.
2. Start the engine.
 - 2.1. After the engine starts, wait until the indicator lamps in the instrument cluster go out.
 - 2.2. The fasten seat belts symbol (**A, figure 1**) is illuminated.
 - 2.3. The engine must be running during the entire test.
 - 2.4. As the first step, the correct test seat belt tongue needs to be determined.
3. Insert test seat belt tongues (beginning with test seat belt tongue 1) into the driver's side seat belt buckle in accordance with the test sequence specification (1, figure 2).
 - i** The following specification must be followed in order to find the correct test seat belt tongue.
 - i** **ATTENTION: Pay attention to the insertion direction of the test seat belt tongue.** The number of the test seat belt tongue must face the sitting surface of the vehicle occupant (figure 2), and the seat belt tongue must be inserted so that it is straight (not misaligned).

Test sequence specification:

- Test seat belt tongue 1 **cannot** be inserted ➡ continue with test seat belt tongue 2
- Test seat belt tongue 2 **cannot** be inserted ➡ continue with test seat belt tongue 3
- Test seat belt tongue 3 **cannot** be inserted ➡ continue with test seat belt tongue 4

- i** The **first** test seat belt tongue in this sequence that can be inserted and latch is the **correct** test seat belt tongue. All other test seat belt tongues are **no longer** relevant for testing this seat belt buckle.

Example: If test seat belt tongue 1 can be inserted, it is the **correct** test seat belt tongue.

- i** Do not shut off the engine.



Figure 1



Figure 2

- a. The indicator lamp **(A)(figure 1)** does *not* go out when the test is carried out using the **correct** driver's side seat belt tongue: Carry out **work procedure 1**.
- b. The indicator lamp **(A)(figure 1)** goes out when the test is carried out using the **correct** driver's side test seat belt tongue: Carry out **check/test procedure B**.

i The findings from the check/test procedure (which tool number and result) must be recorded on the work order.

Check/test procedure B

Test: Front passenger side seat belt buckle

i The engine must be running during the entire test.

4. Insert seat belt **(B, figure 3)** into the **driver's side** seat belt buckle.

i No one may be seated on the driver's side during the test.



Figure 3



Figure 4

5. Sit on the front seat on the front passenger side and close the door.

i All doors must be closed.




i To begin with, the correct test seat belt tongue needs to be determined.

6. Insert test seat belt tongues (**beginning with test seat belt tongue 1**) into the front passenger side seat belt buckle in accordance with the specification of the test sequence (**1, figure 4**).

i The following specification must be followed in order to find the correct test seat belt tongue.

i **ATTENTION: Pay attention to the insertion direction of the test seat belt tongue.** The number of the test seat belt tongue must face the sitting surface of the vehicle occupant (figure 4), and the seat belt tongue must be inserted so that it is straight (not misaligned).

Test sequence specification:

- Test seat belt tongue 1 **cannot** be inserted  continue with test seat belt tongue 2
- Test seat belt tongue 2 **cannot** be inserted  continue with test seat belt tongue 3
- Test seat belt tongue 3 **cannot** be inserted  continue with test seat belt tongue 4

i The **first** test seat belt tongue in this sequence that can be inserted and latch is the **correct** test seat belt tongue. All other test seat belt tongues are **no longer** relevant for testing this seat belt buckle.

Example: If test seat belt tongue 1 can be inserted, it is the **correct** test seat belt tongue.

- c. The indicator lamp (**A**)(**figure 1**) does **not** go out when the test is carried out using the **correct** front passenger side seat belt tongue: Carry out **work procedure 2**.
- d. The indicator lamp (**A**)(**figure 1**) goes out when the **correct** front passenger side seat belt tongue is used for testing: **End measure**.

i The findings from the check/test procedure (which tool number and result) must be recorded on the work order.

Work procedure 1

i Replace the driver's side seat belt buckle only if the indicator lamp (A) does not go out after having been tested correctly.

1. Replace driver's side seat belt buckle.

i Basic data for models 205, 213, and 253 **AR91.40-P-1515LW.**
 Basic data for models 257 and 290 **AR91.40-P-1515FR.**
 Basic data for model 463 **AR91.40-P-1515GW; AR91.40-P-1515XG.**

i After **completing work procedure 1** you must perform **Check/test procedure B**.

Work procedure 2

i Replace the front passenger side seat belt buckle only if the indicator lamp (A) does not go out after tested correctly.

1. Replace front passenger side seat belt buckle.

i Basic data for models 205, 213, and 253 **AR91.40-P-1515LW.**
 Basic data for models 257 and 290 **AR91.40-P-1515FR.**
 Basic data for model 463 **AR91.40-P-1515GW; AR91.40-P-1515XG.**

Special tools

Quantity	Designation	Part no.
1	Tool kit	W 000 588 00 99 00

Primary Parts Information

Qty.	Part Name	Part Number
As required	Seat belt buckle for front seat	*

* The replacement parts must be determined according to VIN via the parts process in the Xentry Portal.

i Small parts such as screws, stop nuts, sealing rings, cable ties, fluids, sealant, etc. are not listed in the parts list. The required small parts are taken into account in the budgeting and can be claimed.

Warranty Information**With check**

Operation: Check driver's and front passenger seats seat belt buckles (02-1400)

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)
91 903 08 8	02-1400	0.2

With check and replace

Operation: Check driver's and front passenger seats seat belt buckles (02-1400)

Replace seat belt buckle (02-1401)

Includes: Remove seat and disconnect battery ground line

Damage Code	Operation Number	Labor Time (hrs.)
91 903 08 7	02-1400	0.2
	02-1401*	0.9

* The operation number can be claimed for each belt buckle replaced.

i Note

Operation Number labor times are subject to change