

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 20V-227

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

**Submission Date :** MAY 26, 2020

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-227

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR



## 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 :** 149

**Estimated percentage with defect :** 100 %

## Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2020-2020 Mercedes-Benz AMG GT

**Vehicle Type :** LIGHT VEHICLES

**Body Style :** 2-DOOR

**Power Train :** GAS

**Descriptive Information :** Mercedes-Benz AMG GT-Class 149 Vehicles.

The recall population was determined through production records.

Vehicles outside of the recall population have the communication module's wiring installed according to current production specifications.

**Production Dates :** JAN 28, 2019 - OCT 22, 2019

**VIN Range 1 : Begin :**

NR

**End :** NR

Not sequential

## Description of Defect :

**Description of the Defect :** Mercedes-Benz AG ("MBAG"), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has determined that on certain Model Year ("MY") 2020 AMG GT-Class (190 platform) vehicles, a ground line in the wiring harness of the communication module for the emergency call system (eCall) may not have been installed. If the ground line is not installed, the ground connection of the communication module might be unintentionally established via the shielding of the microphone. This could lead to an impairment of the communication module's GPS functionality.

**FMVSS 1 :** NR

**FMVSS 2 :** NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** Since the microphone's shielding is not designed as a ground binding, the function of the communication module cannot be permanently ensured. Thus, in the event of an automatically or manually triggered emergency call, the determination of the vehicle position might be restricted. In addition, the ability of the vehicle occupants to communicate with the call center verbally

could be impaired or prevented. As a consequence, emergency responders might not be guided to the vehicle. This might increase the risk of an injury following an emergency event.

The customer might be made aware of a malfunction of the emergency call system by a SOS message in the instrument cluster.

**Description of the Cause :** Due to a production deviation at a supplier, certain communication modules might have been delivered without the intended ground line.

**Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :** The customer will be made aware of a malfunction of the emergency call system by a SOS message in the instrument cluster.

## Involved Components :

**Component Name 1 :** Wiring Harness

**Component Description :** Wiring Harness of e-call module

**Component Part Number :** A 190 540 02 02

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

**Name :** Kromberg & Schubert GmbH & Co.

**Address :** Kabel-Automobiltechnik  
Raitestr. 8 Renningen FOREIGN STATES 71272

**Country :** Germany

## Chronology :

In September 2019, MBAG launched an initial investigation based on findings during end-of-line quality tests indicating that the power supply of the communication module was being established via the shielding of the microphone. The analysis showed that the ground line in the wiring harness of the communication module was not present.

MBAG contacted the supplier, who investigated its production process and found that the installation of the ground line had not been implemented appropriately in its production and test processes. Logistics documents were then analyzed to determine the potentially affected vehicles. The supplier was able to make corrective actions in its production process as of October 23, 2019 to ensure the ground connection would be grounded as intended.

In parallel, MBAG began analyses to determine the potential consequence of a ground connection via the

microphone's shielding. The analysis included tests for the performance of different shieldings of the built-in microphones and antennas. These tests were designed to analyze the communication module system stability over the vehicle lifetime and with different voltage fluctuations. MBAG also evaluated the potential consequences of a failed ground line on the communication module's functionality. The analysis indicated the potential that even if the electrical circuit passed end-of-line testing, its performance could be impaired over time. These analyses took place beginning in November 2019 and lasted through the end of 2019 and into 2020.

On April 14, 2020, MBAG reviewed the test findings and determined that a potential safety risk cannot be ruled out.

## Description of Remedy :

**Description of Remedy Program :** An authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will rework the wiring harness of the communication module 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 none of the involved vehicles would have been previously subject to the condition described and all remain covered under the new vehicle warranty.

**How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :** Communication module's wiring harness according to specification. Part: Repair line kit, Part Number: A 190 540 26 09

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** A change in the production procedure of our supplier ensures that this issue can no longer occur from October 23, 2019 onwards.

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign on April 28, 2020. Owners will be notified of the voluntary recall campaign via an interim letter mailed May 22, 2020. A final owner notification is estimated to be begin August 2020. A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date :** APR 28, 2020 - NR

**Planned Owner Notification Date :** MAY 22, 2020 - NR

\* NR - Not Reported