

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20V-595

Manufacturer Name : Daimler Vans USA, LLC**Submission Date :** SEP 30, 2020**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-595**Manufacturer Recall No. :** VS3SCHELLE**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Daimler Vans USA, LLC

Address : One Mercedes-Benz Drive
Sandy Springs GA 30328

Company phone : 854-888-3374

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 4,010

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2019-2020 MERCEDES BENZ SPRINTER

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : VAN

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Based on the analysis of the production information, the affected population was determined to be Sprinter vehicles (VS30, Platform 907) produced from January 18, 2019 to June 9, 2020, on which the fuel hose was potentially not properly installed as specified. The fuel hose of vehicles outside of the scope of the determined population was assembled within specification.

Production Dates : JAN 18, 2019 - JUN 09, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2019-2020 FREIGHTLINER SPRINTER

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : VAN

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Based on the analysis of the production information, the affected population was determined to be Sprinter vehicles (VS30, Platform 907) produced from January 18, 2019 to June 9, 2020, on which the fuel hose was potentially not properly installed as specified. The fuel hose of vehicles outside of the scope of the determined population was assembled within specification.

Production Dates : JAN 18, 2019 - JUN 09, 2020

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 and Freightliner vans, has determined that on certain Mercedes-Benz and Freightliner Sprinter vehicles from platform 907 (VS30) with the M274 gasoline engine, the clamps ensuring the connection of the fuel hose to the nozzles of the rigid fuel line and the Schrader valve may not have been properly installed. If the connections are loose or loosen over time, fuel could potentially leak. In a worst case scenario, the fuel hose could completely detach at its connections.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In the event of fuel leaking from the loose connection(s), fuel may leak onto the cold side of the engine and either evaporate or leak onto the road surface.

In a worst case scenario and if the fuel hose becomes completely detached at its connections, an undefinable amount of fuel could spill onto components in the engine compartment so that an increased risk of fire cannot be ruled out.

In addition, if the fuel hose detaches, the engine could potentially stall, impacting vehicle propulsion.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : NR

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : CLAMP

Component Description : CLAMP ON BOTH FUEL HOSE CONNECTIONS

Component Part Number : A0069971890

Component Name 2 : FUEL HOSE

Component Description : FUEL HOSE BETWEEN RIGID FUEL LINE AND SCHRADER VALVE

Component Part Number : A9074701501

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR
Address : NR
NR
Country : NR

Chronology :

In May 2020, two vehicles were found at the US production plant Charleston, SC, with the clamps on the fuel hose not fully seated. MBAG commenced an investigation. Warranty claims analysis identified five additional US cases on VS30 Sprinter vehicles. MBAG's investigation found that, due to inadequate training of the employees in the assembly facility, the affected clamps on the fuel hose may have been insufficiently tightened on the nozzles and/or the components may not have been positioned according to specification before mounting. Upon identification, the plant corrected this in series production by June 2020 through employee training, optimization of the work station descriptions, and the introduction of an additional quality check. MBAG then also confirmed that the additional five customer complaints from the US market were related to the same cause. MBAG initiated analysis with regard to whether this condition gave rise to a potential safety consequence. This evaluation included consideration of the potential for the fuel hose to detach, although there were no complaints of such any occurrence in the field. During July and August, 2020, MBAG investigated the conditions under which fuel might leak, the amount of any such leak and the potential consequences of any such leak. The analysis also contained focus on the combustion of potential fuel leaking and the thermal condition on the particular side of the engine.

MBAG's analysis revealed that in a worst-case scenario a complete detachment of the fuel hose on one of the affected connection points cannot be ruled out. MBAG is unaware of any such incidents having occurred either in the US or elsewhere.

On September 23, 2020, MBAG determined that a safety risk could not be ruled out and decided to initiate a recall campaign.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : An authorized Mercedes-Benz or Freightliner Sprinter dealer will check the fuel hose and its clamp connections and tighten or replace the components as needed.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 577.11(e), Daimler Vans 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 : An authorized Mercedes-Benz or Freightliner Sprinter dealer will check the fuel hose and its clamp connections and tighten or replace the components as needed.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Upon recognition of the issue, the vehicles still in the plant were blocked and the fuel hose connections were checked. In addition, the employees in the assembly were trained, the workstation descriptions were optimized and an additional quality check was introduced in June 2020.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign approx. in October 2020. A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : OCT 21, 2020 - OCT 21, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : OCT 28, 2020 - OCT 28, 2020

* NR - Not Reported