

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20V-631

Manufacturer Name : Daimler Vans USA, LLC

Submission Date : OCT 14, 2020

NHTSA Recall No. : 20V-631

Manufacturer Recall No. : VS3MONTLAU



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 : 463

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2020-2020 MERCEDES BENZ SPRINTER

Vehicle Type : BUSES, MEDIUM & HEAVY VEHICLES

Body Style : VAN

Power Train : NR

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 16, 2020 to August 28, 2020. This population is documented in the production system as having insufficient initial fitting of a brake hose and a re-set of the installation tool back to its starting position could have taken place. The brake hoses of vehicles outside of the scope of the determined population were assembled without a potential risk of damage.

Production Dates : JAN 16, 2020 - AUG 28, 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 vans, has determined that certain Mercedes-Benz Sprinter vehicles from the 907 platform (VS30) may have sustained an outer area cut to the brake hoses on the front and rear axles during production.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If a brake hose were to be damaged during production, over time and as the material ages, the hose could begin to leak brake fluid, affecting the braking performance of the vehicle, including the potential loss of directional stability when braking, thereby increasing the risk of a crash.

Description of the Cause : NR

Identification of Any Warning NR
that can Occur :

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : BRAKE HOSE

Component Description : BRAKE HOSE FRONT AXLE 4X2

Component Part Number : A9074284200

Component Name 2 : BRAKE HOSE

Component Description : BRAKE HOSE FRONT AXLE 4X4

Component Part Number : A9074282900

Component Name 3 : BRAKE HOSE

Component Description : BRAKE HOSE REAR AXLE 4X2

Component Part Number : A9074284200

Component Name 4 : BRAKE HOSE

Component Description : BRAKE HOSE REAR AXLE 4X2

Component Part Number : A9074288600

Component Name 5 : BRAKE HOSE

Component Description : BRAKE HOSE REAR AXLE 4X2

Component Part Number : A9064283701

Component Name 6 : BRAKE HOSE

Component Description : BRAKE HOSE REAR AXLE 4X2

Component Part Number : A9074282700

Component Name 7 : BRAKE HOSE

Component Description : BRAKE HOSE REAR AXLE 4X2

Component Part Number : A9074283100

Component Name 8 : BRAKE HOSE

Component Description : BRAKE HOSE REAR AXLE 4X2

Component Part Number : A9074282800

Component Name 9 : BRAKE HOSE

Component Description : BRAKE HOSE REAR AXLE 4X4

Component Part Number : A9074283000

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : NR

Address : NR

NR

Country : NR

Chronology :

In September 2020, a vehicle with a damaged brake hose was found at the Düsseldorf production plant in Germany. Personnel at the production facility observed a cut in a transverse direction on a brake hose a few centimeters away from the fitting.

MBAG initiated an analysis to understand if this was an isolated case or if it was part of a broader issue. MBAG blocked the vehicles on the plant site and conducted a 100% check of the brake hoses before dispatch. MBAG found additional vehicles with brake hoses that also exhibited cuts in the hose material. These vehicles were blocked in the plant until they could be reworked.

In parallel, MBAG commenced an investigation as to the cause, extent of damage to the brake hose, and potential consequences.

MBAG found there were no warranty claims or field complaints potentially related to the issue.

MBAG's investigation later found the condition of the vehicles observed at the plant related to the use of the electronic screwdriver (EC) during the assembly process. The investigation revealed that if the screw connection for the brake hoses were not successfully positioned during the initial attempt, the operator could retract and reset the EC to attempt the fitting again. During this process, the brake hose could contact the

sharp edge of the EC. MBAG introduced measures to address the issue in September 2020 and considered the impact of the gouges to the brake hose. It found that the damage of the brake hoses only affected the outer area of the multilayer hose composition and would be able to withstand a maximum braking event. However, over time and as the brake hoses age, the possibility exists that the brake hoses might not be able to continue to perform without affecting braking performance and, in the worst-case scenario, the brake hose could rupture or burst. October 6, 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 Sprinter dealer will check the condition of the brake hoses on the rear and front axle and replace them 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 Sprinter dealer will check the condition of the brake hoses on the rear and front axle and replace them as needed.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Upon recognition of the issue in September 2020, the vehicles still in the plant were blocked, checked and corrected as needed. From this point onwards, in series production the EC screwdriver was replaced by using an electric torque wrench in combination with a second hand check.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : NR

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NOV 23, 2020 - NOV 23, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : NOV 30, 2020 - NOV 30, 2020

* NR - Not Reported