

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 20V-671

**Manufacturer Name :** Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.**Submission Date :** OCT 30, 2020**NHTSA Recall No. :** 20V-671**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 : 55,326

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle 1 : 2021-2021 Mercedes-Benz AMG GLE53

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

**Descriptive Information :** Mercedes-Benz 2021 AMG GLE53 2,133 Vehicles The recall population was determined through production records.

Vehicles outside of the recall population have the middle seatbelt buckle installed according to current production specifications.

Production Dates : MAY 30, 2017 - JUL 24, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2020-2020 Mercedes-Benz GLE580

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

**Descriptive Information :** Mercedes-Benz 2020 GLE580 848 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records.

Vehicles outside of the recall population have the middle seatbelt buckle installed according to current production specifications.

Production Dates : MAY 30, 2017 - JUL 24, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2020-2021 Mercedes-Benz GLE350

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Mercedes-Benz 2020-2021 GLE350 45,204 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records.

Vehicles outside of the recall population have the middle seatbelt buckle installed according to current production specifications.

Production Dates : MAY 30, 2017 - JUL 24, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2020-2021 Mercedes-Benz GLE450

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Mercedes-Benz 2020-2021 GLE450 7,045 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records.

Vehicles outside of the recall population have the middle seatbelt buckle installed according to current production specifications.

Production Dates : MAY 30, 2017 - JUL 24, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR

Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 2021-2021 Mercedes-Benz AMG GLE63

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Mercedes-Benz 2021 AMG GLE63 96 Vehicles

The recall population was determined through production records.

Vehicles outside of the recall population have the middle seatbelt buckle installed according to current production specifications.

Production Dates : MAY 30, 2017 - JUL 24, 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 vehicles, has determined that on certain Model Year ("MY") 2020 - 2021 GLE-Class (167 platform) vehicles with 5 passenger seating, in certain circumstances while buckling the seatbelt, the middle seatbelt buckle could be pushed down into the gap below the seat cushion.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

**Description of the Safety Risk :** If the passenger is not able to retrieve the buckle, the affected seat would not be available for an occupant to properly fasten the seatbelt. If a passenger does not fasten the seatbelt according to the Operator's Manual, the risk of injury in a crash could increase.

**Description of the Cause :** The second row seat utilizes a double buckle configuration for the middle seating position. Due to the geometrical design of the seat belt buckle and the seat cushion, the double buckle could be pushed down into the gap below the seat cushion in certain instances when the occupant is buckling the seatbelt.

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

## Involved Components :

**Component Name 1 :** Second row seat double buckle

**Component Description :** Adjust the mounting of the second row seat double buckle

**Component Part Number :** NR

## Supplier Identification :

### Component Manufacturer

**Name :** Mercedes-Benz AG

**Address :** NR

NR

**Country :** NR

## Chronology :

In September 2019, Mercedes-Benz USA provided information to MBAG's Aftersales Department that it had received reports from the field that the seatbelt buckle for the middle rear seat were found under the seat cushion. There were nine cases reported to MBAG at the time and the reports indicated that customers were bringing their vehicles to dealers in order to retrieve the seatbelt buckle from under the seat cushion. MBAG considered the individual reports and in January 2020, MBAG initiated an investigation to better understand the condition and potential consequences. In the Spring of 2020, MBAG operations were restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When the investigation resumed, the analysis focused on the likelihood that the middle seatbelt buckle could be pushed below the seat cushion and the scenarios and conditions for the cause. It was found that due to the double buckle configuration, the buckle for the middle seat occupant could end up under the seat in certain specific circumstances -- if the middle seat occupant did not use two hands to latch the

buckle or, if the buckle was forcefully pushed downward under the seat cushion. MBAG again reviewed its data related to the condition and while the overall number of reports remained low, it was observed that dealer technicians were using a variety of different repair methods. Please see chronology supplement

## Description of Remedy :

**Description of Remedy Program :** An authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will additionally secure of the middle seatbelt buckle on the affected vehicles to prevent it from being pushed below the seat cushion.

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 :** Vehicles equipped with double buckle with modified mounting.

Remedy: Cable Tie - Part No: A 006 997 11 90

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** A change in the middle buckle mounting ensures that this issue can no longer occur from July 27, 2020 onwards.

## Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign on November 6, 2020. Owners will be notified of the voluntary recall campaign approximately one week after launch to the dealers on December 29, 2020. A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date :** NOV 06, 2020 - NR

**Planned Owner Notification Date :** DEC 29, 2020 - NR

\* NR - Not Reported