

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21V-032

Manufacturer Name : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC**Submission Date :** FEB 23, 2021**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21V-032**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 2021020010**Manufacturer Information :****Population :**

Manufacturer Name : Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Number of potentially involved : 24,550

Address : 13470 International Parkway

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Jacksonville FL 32218

Company phone : 1-877-496-3691

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2017-2021 Mercedes-Benz C300

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 2-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Mercedes-Benz MY2017-2021 C300 18,589 vehicles. The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have the seat belt assemblies that fully retract to their stowed position according to current production specifications.

Production Dates : JAN 19, 2016 - JUL 17, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2017-2020 Mercedes-Benz AMG C43

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 2-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Mercedes-Benz MY2017-2020 AMG C43 3,571 vehicles. The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have the seat belt assemblies that fully retract to their stowed position according to current production specifications.

Production Dates : JAN 19, 2016 - JUL 17, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2017-2020 Mercedes-Benz AMG C63

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : 2-DOOR

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Mercedes-Benz MY2017-2020 AMG C63 2,390 vehicles. The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have the seat belt assemblies that fully retract to their stowed position according to current production specifications.

Production Dates : JAN 19, 2016 - JUL 17, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance : Mercedes-Benz AG ("MBAG"), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has determined that certain C-Class Cabriolet vehicles (A205 platform) with PRE-SAFE might not meet the requirements of FMVSS 208, S7.4.5., as the front seat belt might not fully retract completely to its stowed position due to a different geometry of the front seat belt retractor.

FMVSS 1 : 208 - Occupant crash protection

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In this case, certain regulatory requirements under FMVSS 208 might not be fulfilled. If the seatbelt webbing does not fully retract into its storage position, the consumer may find the operation of the seatbelt inconvenient and not wear it, increasing the risk of injury in the event of a crash.

Description of the Cause : Due to a deviation during the vehicle development process, the distance between the seat belt retractor and the damping foam within the b-pillar paneling might not meet the current production specifications and may not fulfill certain seatbelt retraction requirements under FMVSS 208.

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 : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Mercedes-Benz AG
Address : NR
NR
Country : NR

Chronology :

In February 2020, MBAG launched initial investigations based on reports from customers in the field describing instances in which the front seat belt allegedly did not fully retract back properly to the stowed position.

In the spring of 2020, MBAG operations were restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When the investigation resumed, MBAG analyzed the issue on certain vehicles and identified a deviation in the development process regarding the distance between the seat belt retractor and the damping foam inside of the b-pillar paneling. As part of further analyses, MBAG reviewed technical drawings and determined that only seat belts with PRE-SAFE might potentially be affected. An additional investigation was done to identify all potentially affected vehicles equipped with PRE-SAFE that may have been affected by the process deviation.

As an additional aspect of the analysis process, comprehensive tests were performed to evaluate potential impacts of a non-retracted seat belt to occupant safety. The analysis found that the seatbelt continued to operate appropriately and would not experience a degradation in performance.

On January 22, 2021, MBAG determined that there was a non-compliance with FMVSS 208 cannot be ruled out and decided to conduct a recall on the potentially affected vehicles.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : As a precautionary measure, an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer will check the retraction function of the seat belt on the affected vehicles and adjust the damping foam within the B-pillar, if necessary.

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 577.11(e), MBUSA does plan to provide notice about pre-notice reimbursement to owners since some of the involved vehicles would have been previously subject to the condition described and customers who have already paid to have this recall condition corrected may be eligible to receive reimbursement.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The front seat belts fully retract to their stowed position and conform to FMVSS 208.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : A change in the geometry to the damping foam ensures that this issue can no longer occur as of Jul 20, 2020.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign on February 5, 2021. A copy of all communications will be provided when available. Owners will be notified of the voluntary recall campaign approximately one week after launch to the dealers on March 23, 2021. A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : FEB 05, 2021 - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 23, 2021 - NR

* NR - Not Reported