

Chronology of Defect/Noncompliance Determination

In June 2019, MBAG became aware, during a regular quality inspection in the production process, of a single vehicle which exhibited a permanently illuminated left exterior backup lamp. Subsequently, MBAG initiated an investigation in conjunction with the supplier.

MBAG's supplier found that on the subject control unit, the contact pins for the left exterior backup lamp had been manufactured at the tolerance limit. Accordingly, the supplier redefined their tolerance limits and initiated an optimization of the pin assembly. At this point in time, this case was judged to be an isolated case.

In late autumn 2019, MBAG was made aware of a small number of customer complaints where it was reported that the left rear backup lamp remains illuminated.

The vehicles had low vehicle mileage at the time of the report and the investigation was focused on understanding whether these isolated reports were potentially related.

MBAG also initiated an investigation of vehicles located at the all production facilities and Vehicle Preparation Centers and in the winter of 2019, and any vehicles found to have an affected backup lamp were reworked.

In late summer of 2020 MBAG was made aware of further customer complaints of the left side reverse lamp remaining illuminated. Further investigations were initiated in order to identify the failure mechanism, the affected vehicle population, the location of the vehicles, and if the vehicles were not reworked within the above mentioned plant measure. The investigation found the vehicles were not reworked within the above mentioned plant measure. The technical investigation found that even with one illuminated backup lamp, the vehicles' brake lamps and turn signal functions were not affected so that following motorists would be able to detect the operator's intention to turn or slow/stop the vehicle.

In autumn 2020 MBAG additionally reviewed the relevant regulatory requirements to determine whether or not the vehicles fulfilled the requirements despite the proper operation of the other rear exterior lamps.

On January 29, 2021, MBAG determined that there was a technical noncompliance regarding the market-specific regulatory requirements.