



U.S. Department of Transportation

**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 10, 2026

26V216

Joseph Haller
Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Subject: Drive Shaft Universal Joint May Break

Dear Joseph Haller:

This letter serves to acknowledge Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

MERCEDES-MAYBACH/S 560 4MATIC/2018-2020
MERCEDES-BENZ/S 560 4MATIC/2018-2020
MERCEDES-BENZ/S 450 4MATIC/2018-2020
MERCEDES-BENZ/E 450 4MATIC/2019-2020
MERCEDES-BENZ/E 450 4MATIC WAGON/2019-2020
MERCEDES-BENZ/E 450 4MATIC COUPE/2019-2020
MERCEDES-BENZ/E 450 4MATIC CABRIOLET/2019-2020
MERCEDES-BENZ/E 400 4MATIC/2018
MERCEDES-BENZ/E 400 4MATIC WAGON/2018
MERCEDES-BENZ/E 400 4MATIC COUPE/2018
MERCEDES-BENZ/E 400 4MATIC CABRIOLET/2018
MERCEDES-BENZ/S 560 4MATIC COUPE/2018-2020

Mfr's Report Date: April 03, 2026

NHTSA Campaign Number: 26V216

Components:

POWER TRAIN:DRIVELINE:UNIVERSAL JOINT

Potential Number of Units Affected: 24,092

Problem Description:

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) is recalling certain 2018 E 400 4MATIC Sedan, E 400 4MATIC Wagon, E 400 4MATIC Cabriolet, E 400 4MATIC Coupe, 2018-2020 Maybach S 560 4MATIC, S 560 4MATIC Coupe, S 450 4MATIC, 2019-2020 E 450 4MATIC Sedan, E 450 4MATIC Wagon, E 450

4MATIC Coupe, and E 450 4MATIC Cabriolet vehicles. The drive shaft universal joint may break, resulting in a sudden loss of drive power.

Consequence:

A sudden loss of drive power increases the risk of a crash.

Remedy:

Dealers will inspect and replace the drive shaft as necessary, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed June 2, 2026. Owners may contact MBUSA customer service at 1-800-367-6372. Vehicle Identification Numbers (VINs) involved in this recall will be searchable on NHTSA.gov beginning April 10, 2026.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-888-275-9171), or go to www.nhtsa.gov.

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

Reimbursement Plan Not Supplied

Provide a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of your company's notification of owners, purchasers, and dealers, in accordance with 49 CFR 573.13. Your company's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. If your company submits one or more general reimbursement plans, your company shall update each plan every two years (49 CFR 573.13). If the vehicles are new and would be covered under the manufacturer's warranty program, please state that in the reimbursement section of an amended Part 573 Recall Report through the NHTSA Recalls Portal.

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in 49 U.S.C. § 30118(f), submission of eight consecutive quarterly reports followed by three annual reports is required. As described in 573.7, submission of the first of eight consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to

purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter. The first of three consecutive annual status reports will be due on, or before, 1 year after the eighth quarterly report was submitted.

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC's contact for this recall will be Dusty Gardner who may be reached by email at dusty.gardner@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alex Ansley

Alex Ansley
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement