



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V216

Manufacturer Name: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Submission Date: Aug 03, 2026

NHTSA Recall No.: 26V216

Manufacturer Recall No.:

Manufacturer Information

Population

Manufacturer Name: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC

Address: 13470 International
Parkway
Jacksonville FL, 32218

Total number of potentially involved: 24,092

Estimated percentage with defect: 100%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2019-2020 Mercedes-Benz E 450 4MATIC Wagon

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019

Number of potentially involved: 1,884

Descriptive Information:

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 2: 2018-2020 Mercedes-Benz S 450 4MATIC

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019

Number of potentially involved: 2,647

Descriptive Information:

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 3: 2018-2020 Mercedes-Maybach S 560 4MATIC

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26V216**Product Category:** Light Vehicles**Product Type:****Fuel / Propulsion:****Production Dates:** Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019**Number of potentially involved:** 295**Descriptive Information:**

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 4: 2019-2020 Mercedes-Benz E 450 4MATIC Coupe**Product Category:** Light Vehicles**Product Type:****Fuel / Propulsion:****Production Dates:** Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019**Number of potentially involved:** 1,747**Descriptive Information:**

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 5: 2018-2020 Mercedes-Benz S 560 4MATIC**Product Category:** Light Vehicles**Product Type:****Fuel / Propulsion:****Production Dates:** Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019**Number of potentially involved:** 6,373**Descriptive Information:**

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 6: 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz E 400 4MATIC Sedan**Product Category:** Light Vehicles**Product Type:****Fuel / Propulsion:**

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26V216**Production Dates:** Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019**Number of potentially involved:** 2,147**Descriptive Information:**

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 7: 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz E 400 4MATIC Coupe**Product Category:** Light Vehicles**Product Type:** Passenger Car**Fuel / Propulsion:****Production Dates:** Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019**Number of potentially involved:** 537**Descriptive Information:**

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 8: 2019-2020 Mercedes-Benz E 450 4MATIC Cabriolet**Product Category:** Light Vehicles**Product Type:****Fuel / Propulsion:****Production Dates:** Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019**Number of potentially involved:** 1,793**Descriptive Information:**

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 9: 2019-2020 Mercedes-Benz E 450 4MATIC Sedan**Product Category:** Light Vehicles**Product Type:****Fuel / Propulsion:****Production Dates:** Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019**Number of potentially involved:** 3,489**Descriptive Information:**

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The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 10: 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz E 400 4MATIC Wagon

Product Category:

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019

Number of potentially involved: 844

Descriptive Information:

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 11: 2018-2020 Mercedes-Benz S 560 4MATIC Coupe

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019

Number of potentially involved: 920

Descriptive Information:

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Vehicle 12: 2018-2018 Mercedes-Benz E 400 4MATIC Cabriolet

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type: Passenger Car

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Oct 01, 2017 - Dec 18, 2019

Number of potentially involved: 1,416

Descriptive Information:

The recall population was determined through production records. Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

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Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

Mercedes-Benz AG ("MBAG"), the manufacturer of Mercedes-Benz vehicles, has determined that on certain Model Year ("MY") 2018-2020 E-Class 4MATIC (213 platform), E-Class Coupe/Convertible (238 platform), S-Class Coupe/Convertible 4MATIC (217 platform), and S-Class 4MATIC (222 platform) vehicles, increased wear of the universal joint on the drive shaft could occur.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:

In this case, there could be a loss of lubricant at the universal joint, which in the further course of operation could lead to the fracture of the universal joint. As a result, the connection between the transfer case and the front-axle transmission would no longer be assured, and a loss of propulsion without warning cannot be ruled out. As a result, the risk of a crash would be increased.

Description of the cause:

Due to insufficient parameters in a supplier's production process, increased wear on the universal joint of the drive shaft might occur over time.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

Before the issue occurs, the driver may be made aware of the issue by noises and vibrations while driving. In individual cases, it cannot be ruled out that those might not be noticed.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier: Tier 1

Supplier Type: Distributor

Name: IFA Group

Address: Neue Straße 13
Haldensleben Foreign States, 39340

Country: Germany

Involved Components

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Component Name 1: PROPELLER SHAFT

Component Description: PROPELLER SHAFT

Component Part Number: A2534103201

Component Name 2: PROPELLER SHAFT

Component Description: PROPELLER SHAFT

Component Part Number: A2534103401

Chronology

In October 2025, MBAG received a report of a field instance outside the U.S. in which a customer alleged losing propulsion without warning. MBAG had been aware of instances of customers reporting noise and vibration. The universal joint could wear over time with substantial extended use.

Upon receiving a report without the expected warning, MBAG initiated extensive analyses.

Between November 2025 and January 2026, several tests were conducted but were unable to explain the possible absence of a warning.

Additional endurance testing was conducted from February through March 2026, using pre-damaged drive shafts driven to failure. The results of the testing found that noise and vibration may not necessarily occur in every instance. Thus, on March 27, 2026, MBAG determined that a potential safety risk could not be ruled out and decided to conduct a recall.

MBAG is currently aware of 30 warranty claims reports received from January 2022 to April 2025 in the US.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Inspect, Replace

Consumer Advisories: ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

An authorized Mercedes-Benz Dealer will check the drive shaft on the affected vehicles and replace it, if necessary.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

Vehicles outside of the recall population have drive shafts that meet current production specifications.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

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A change in the production procedure of our supplier ensures that this issue can no longer occur from December 20, 2019 onwards.

Reimbursement Plan

Description of reimbursement program:

Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 577.11, MBUSA plans to provide notice about pre-notice reimbursement to owners since some of the involved vehicles could have been previously subject to the condition described.

Period of reimbursement:

Owners or purchasers may be eligible for reimbursement if they paid to have service performed to remedy the condition described in a recall before the recall remedy is available, and prior to a specified ending date, as defined below.

Unless a specific reimbursement plan is provided for a particular recall, and consistent with 49 C.F.R. § 573.13(c)(2), the ending date for reimbursement eligibility shall be ten (10) calendar days after the date on which MBUSA mails the last Part 577 notification to owners.

Costs to be reimbursed:

For motor vehicles, reimbursement will not be less than the lesser of:

1. The amount actually paid by the owner or purchaser for the remedy that specifically addressed and was reasonably necessary to correct the defect or noncompliance that is the subject of the recall; or
2. The cost of the remedy as it would have been performed by an authorized Mercedes Benz dealer, consisting of:
 - o Manufacturer's suggested retail price for authorized parts,
 - o Reasonable labor costs at local labor rates,
 - o Applicable taxes and fees (including hazardous waste disposal, where previously paid).

Address for reimbursement claims:

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign on April 10, 2026. Owners will be notified via interim letter of the voluntary recall campaign before May 22, 2026. A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Apr 10, 2026 - Apr 10, 2026

☐ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: May 22, 2026

☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Dec 31, 2026

☒ Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: Apr 10, 2026