

Headlamps/front fog lamps leaking or fogged

Topic number	LI82.10-P-078301
Version	3
Function group	82.10 - Exterior lights
Date	2/24/26
Validity	All cars except G-Class
Reason for change	Validities revised Change to LI reference

Complaint

Headlamp, front fog lamp leaky or fogged

Attachments	
File	Description
Scheinwerfer .docx	Rectify this fogging problem using Remedy 1
Defekte Scheinwerfer .docx	Defective Headlights, Replace the headlamps for this complaint

Cause

Fogging of the headlamps is a natural phenomenon, which can occur under certain climatic conditions.

It does not lead to any technical impairment of the headlamp.

If a pressure compensation diaphragm is fitted in the housing cover, then the lamp unit is a "closed system".

Remedy

Headlamp:

Remedy 1

Clearing fogged/condensed LED headlamps:

1. Drive vehicle into workshop (temperature higher than +18 °C/+64.4 °F) and connect the exhaust extraction.

Note: Do not perform an engine wash before the defogging test.

2. Switch off the engine and connect battery support via a charger.

3. Open the hood.

4. Switch on the lights.

5. Leave the vehicle in this state for 60 minutes.

6. Check for formation of condensation, a significant reduction in the formation of condensation must be clearly recognizable (thawing progress).

Clearing of fogged/condensed LED headlamps and LED rear lamps on electric vehicles:

1. Drive the vehicle into the workshop (temperature higher than +18 °C/+64.4°F).
2. Connect battery backup via a charger.
3. Open the front-end flap and ensure sufficient ventilation.
4. Switch on the lights.
5. Leave the vehicle in this state for 60 minutes.
6. Check for formation of condensation, a significant reduction in the formation of condensation must be clearly recognizable (thawing progress).

Clearing fogged/condensed halogen/xenon headlamps:

1. Drive the vehicle into the workshop (temperature higher than +18 °C/+64.4°F).

Note: Do not perform an engine wash before the defogging test.

2. Switch off the engine.
3. Open the hood.
4. Switch off the lights.
5. Leave the vehicle in this state for 60 minutes.
6. Check for formation of condensation, a significant reduction in the formation of condensation must be clearly recognizable (thawing progress).

Note: If there is no visible reduction in condensation, check the headlamp for malfunctions. (see Remedy 2)

It is not physically possible to defog the headlamps completely. Fogging does not impair the operation or the service life of the headlamp.

Remedy 2

A defective headlamp can be identified as follows:

1. Check the headlamp for external damage and that the cover caps and the diaphragm are correctly seated.
2. Check the electrical connectors of the plugs and pins.
3. Check for leak tightness according to LI82.10-P-078307. The test can only be conducted on headlamps.
4. If the headlamp or the rear lamp has any external damage, replace the component part in accordance with the WIS instructions.

Note:

External damage to the headlamp/rear lamp or faulty seating of the cover caps does not present a warranty or goodwill case.

XENTRY Tips

Note:

With headlamps, it is possible to install desiccant packs if the problem occurs repeatedly.

- Open ventilation system LI82.10-P-078302
- Closed ventilation system LI82.10-P-078304

Disclaimer

NOTE: The information contained in this document is intended for use by trained, professional technicians with the knowledge to properly and safely perform diagnosis and repairs on Mercedes-Benz vehicles, using Mercedes-Benz approved tools and equipment. It informs service technicians about conditions that could occur in certain vehicles and provides information that could assist in proper vehicle diagnosis, service, or repair. It does not indicate that a defect is present in any vehicle referenced in this document nor does it imply warranty coverage. DO NOT assume that a symptom or condition, or a described cause of a symptom or condition, affects any particular vehicle or groups of vehicles, or that a described repair applies to any particular vehicle or groups of vehicles. There can be multiple causes resulting in the same or similar symptoms or conditions described in this document, and trained professional service technicians must use their diagnostic skills to make evaluations on a case-by-case basis. The information contained in this document does not guarantee warranty coverage nor does it extend the vehicle's warranty in any way.

Symptoms
Lighting > Exterior lights > Front fog lights > Malfunction
Lighting > Exterior lights > Driving lights > Main headlamps > Fogged
Lighting > Exterior lights > Driving lights > Taillamp > Fogged

Operation numbers/damage codes				
Op. no.	Operation text	Time	Damage code	Note