



August 3, 2012

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
A Daimler Company**SENT BY E-MAIL (rmd.odi@dot.gov) AND CERTIFIED U.S. MAIL**

Ms. Nancy Lewis
 Associate Administrator, Enforcement
 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 Attention: Recall Management Division
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
 NVS-200, Room W45-306
 Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Part 573 Defect Information Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Pursuant to the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 573, and on behalf of our parent company, Daimler AG (DAG), this letter advises you of a voluntary safety-related recall for certain Mercedes-Benz vehicles. Specifically, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC (MBUSA) submits this report regarding a dashboard molding strip on the front passenger side in certain 2011 Model Year Mercedes-Benz vehicles.

573.6(c)(1): Manufacturer's Name

Daimler AG, Stuttgart, Germany.

Designated Agent: Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
 Montvale, NJ 07645

573.6(c)(2): Identification of Vehicles

Make	Line/Model	Model Year	Inclusive Dates of Manufacture
Mercedes-Benz	G-Class (463 platform)	2011	September 30, 2010 – April 27, 2011



573.6(c)(2)(iv): Manufacturer's Name of Affected Component and Country of Origin

Mercedes-Benz Consult Graz GmbH
Dr. Auner-Strasse 1
8074 Raaba
Austria

573.6(c)(3): Total Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

Approximately 189 Mercedes-Benz vehicles are potentially affected in the US.

573.6(c)(4): Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect

The percentage of vehicles that are projected to actually contain the issues described below is approximately 6%.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect

The dashboard of the subject G-Class contains a front passenger-side airbag, which is covered by a covering flap. In order to have a controlled opening of the front passenger airbag, a molding strip is located between the airbag and the covering flap. DAG has determined that the spot welding between the molding strip and covering flap of the dashboard may not have been done properly to ensure retention of the molding strip during all airbag deployment scenarios. During front passenger airbag deployment, parts of the molding strip could potentially become loose and enter the passenger compartment or otherwise impair proper airbag function.

573.6(c)(6): Chronology of Principal Events

In January 2012, MB Consult Graz, GmbH identified potential issues with DAG regarding the retention of the molding strip. A task force was formed in order to investigate the issue. Airbag deployment testing under various deployment scenarios was conducted in March 2012. In April-May 2012, DAG analyzed the installation method of airbags within the vehicle and sought to identify potential subject components and vehicles. This analysis identified potential issues related to the spot welding that attaches the molding strip during a specific period of production. Additional airbag deployment testing was conducted in May, 2012. In June, the scope of potentially affected vehicles was analyzed and confirmed based on production records. The test results and vehicle installation methods were evaluated by the product safety engineering group in July 2012. The results of this evaluation led to a determination that the welding could potentially lead to a safety related defect.

573.6(c)(8)(i): Remedy Program

MBUSA will conduct a voluntary recall campaign for the subject vehicles described above. The voluntary recall campaign will be conducted to reinforce the connection between the molding strip and airbag cover flap within the retention frame of the dashboard to eliminate the possibility that the molding strip could become disconnected.

573.6(c)(8)(ii): Estimated Date of Owner Notification

MBUSA estimates owner notification will begin in September 2012.

573.6(c)(10): Copies of Communications with Dealers or Purchasers

Dealers will be notified of the voluntary recall campaign in August, 2012. The voluntary recall campaign is expected to commence in September 2012. A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

573.6(c)(11): Copies of Proposed Owner Notification Letter

A copy of the owner notification will be provided when available.

573.6(c)(12): Manufacturer's Campaign Identification Number

The MBUSA Recall Campaign Number will be provided when available.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. R. Thomas Brunner at brunnert@mbusa.com.

Sincerely,



Frank J. Diertl
General Manager,
Engineering Services



R. Thomas Brunner
Department Manager,
Vehicle Compliance and Analysis