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Mercedes-Benz

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October 31, 2013

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 the Occupant Classification System (OCS) in certain 2013 Model Year Mercedes-Benz SL-Class (231 platform) 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	SL550, SL63 AMG, SL65 AMG (231 platform)	2013	January 16, 2013 - April 30, 2013

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

Lear Corporation GmbH
La-Rochelle-Strasse 1
28309 Bremen
Germany

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
One Mercedes Drive
P.O. Box 350
Montvale, NJ 07645-0350
Phone (201) 573-0600
Fax (201) 573-0117
www.MBUSA.com

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

Approximately 130 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 issue described below is unknown.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect

The potentially affected Mercedes-Benz SL-Class vehicles are equipped with an Occupant Classification System (OCS). The OCS detects whether a child seat is installed, or a person is sitting on the passenger seat. When the OCS detects either a child seat or that the front passenger seat is not occupied, the front passenger airbag is automatically deactivated.

On a limited number of SL-Class vehicles (231 platform) produced between Jan 16, 2013 - April 30, 2013, the passenger seat OCS may not function properly due to an individual mistake of a worker on the assembly line at the supplier. During the assembly process, the OCS control unit may have been mounted incorrectly in a limited number of vehicles. In these particular instances the OCS pressure hose would not be mounted as intended.

In the worst case, the pressure hose could be partially or totally clamped in certain passenger seat positions. In such a case the OCS control unit may not properly detect pressure changes in the OCS sensing system. If this were to occur, the OCS may fail to properly detect an occupant on the front passenger seat and it could erroneously deactivate the front passenger side airbag. This may result in an increased risk of injury in the event of a crash. However, in such a case the "PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF" indicator lamp in the center console of the vehicle would be illuminated to indicate this condition.

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

In July 2013, as part of the end of line testing, DAG discovered an OCS that was not functioning properly. Initial checks and assessment with the supplier resulted in a plant action at DAG at the end of July 2013. Further analysis was undertaken and the root cause of this issue was determined to be an individual mistake by one of the supplier's employees. The potentially affected vehicle range was confirmed by the supplier by the end of August 2013. Further evaluation was then conducted to assess the potential impact of this issue on the effectiveness of the subject OCS. In October 2013, DAG determined that a safety related defect could not be excluded amongst the vehicles in the vehicle population identified above.

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

MBUSA will conduct a voluntary recall campaign for the subject vehicles described above as a precautionary measure to replace the complete passenger side seat cushion including the OCS on the affected SL-Class vehicles.

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

Owner notification will begin in December, 2013. Pursuant to 49 C.F.R. § 577.11(e), MBUSA does not plan to provide notice about pre-notice reimbursement to owners since all involved model year 2013 vehicles remain covered under the new vehicle warranty.

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

Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign in November, 2013. The voluntary recall campaign is expected to commence in December, 2013. A copy of all communications will be provided when available.

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

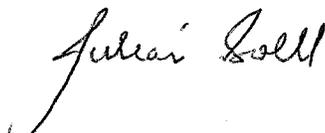
A copy of the owner notification will be provided when available.

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

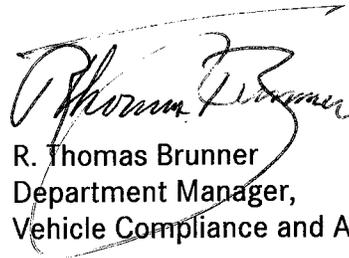
The MBUSA Recall Campaign Number will be provided when available.

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

Sincerely,



Julian Soell
General Manager,
Engineering Services



R. Thomas Brunner
Department Manager,
Vehicle Compliance and Analysis