



September 30, 2011

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

Mr. Claude Harris
 Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement
 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
 NVS-200, Room W45-306
 Washington, D.C. 20590

11V-496
 (3 Pages)

Re: Part 573 Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Harris:

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 diesel fuel filter in certain MY 2011 and MY 2012 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	E-Class (212 platform),	2011	July 2010 - February 2011, March 2011 - May 2011, April 2010 - April 2011, January 2010 - March 2011, March 2010 - March 2011
	S-Class (221 platform),	2012	
	R-Class (251 platform),	2011	
	ML-Class (W164 platform),	2011	
	GL-Class (X164 platform)	2011	

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

Affected Component – Diesel Fuel Filter
MANN+HUMMEL GMBH
Hindenburgstraße 45
71638 Ludwigsburg, Germany

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

Approximately 6,872 Mercedes-Benz passenger 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 less than 1 %.

573.6(c)(5): Description of Defect

The diesel fuel filter utilizes several different O-rings to seal components within the filter. Due to variations in the composition of the raw materials used by the sub-supplier, the O-ring used to seal the fuel heating component in the diesel fuel filter may have a lower material compression property. In combination with a higher tolerance range in the injection molded mating surface, these O-rings may lead to leakage from the fuel filter around the heating component. As a result, diesel fuel may be deposited onto the highway and create the potential for an accident.

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

In November 2010, DAG conducted a voluntary safety recall after it determined that during the supplier manufacturing of the diesel engine fuel filter, the pin O-ring may not have been properly lubricated in all cases which could lead to leakage of the fuel filter.

DAG received a number of further field cases in Europe containing customer complaints about diesel fuel leaking from the fuel filter. After further joint analysis with the supplier of the parts, the materials composition issue with this O-ring was identified. DAG has identified field cases containing complaints from customers stating minor loss of fuel that are likely associated with this failure mode.

After completing in-depth process and parts inspections, DAG and its supplier identified the potential for variations in the materials composition and in the displacement of the mold-to-mold face mating surface, which in combination, could result in leakage. The production process has been modified to eliminate this potential issue.

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 inspect and, if necessary, replace the diesel fuel filter.

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

MBUSA estimates owner notification will begin in November, 2011.

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

Dealers will be notified of the pending voluntary recall campaign in October, 2011. The voluntary recall campaign is expected to commence in November, 2011. 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