

U.S. Department of Transportation

# National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

April 27, 2020

Mr. Greg Gunther Department Manager VCA Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC. 13470 International Parkway Jacksonville, FL 32218 NEF-150JK 20V-228

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE Washington, DC 20590

**Subject:** Front Left Seatbelt Improperly Installed

Dear Mr. Gunther:

This letter serves to acknowledge Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

## Makes/Models/Model Years:

MERCEDES BENZ/E450/2020

Mfr's Report Date: April 21, 2020

NHTSA Campaign Number: 20V-228

**Components:** 

SEAT BELTS:FRONT:WEBBING

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 6

## **Problem Description:**

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC. (MBUSA) is recalling certain 2020 E450 Coupe vehicles. The front left seatbelt may be improperly installed, potentially allowing the seatbelt to contact sharp metal components and damage the seatbelt webbing.

# **Consequence:**

A damaged seatbelt may not properly restrain an occupant, increasing the risk of injury in the event of a crash.

### Remedy

MBUSA will notify owners, and dealers will inspect and reroute the front left seatbelt as necessary, or replace it if the webbing is damaged, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin June 20, 2020. Owners may contact MBUSA customer service at 1-800-367-6372.

### Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to www.safercar.gov.



NHTSA is missing critical, required information for this safety recall. This information must be supplied through the NHTSA Recalls Portal within 5 working days of confirming its accuracy:

- Your company's program shall include a plan for reimbursing an owner or purchaser who incurred costs to obtain a remedy for the problem addressed by the recall within a reasonable time in advance of your company's notification of owners, purchasers and dealers, in accordance with § 573.13 of this part. Your company's plan may incorporate by reference a general reimbursement plan it previously submitted to NHTSA, together with information specific to the individual recall. Information required by § 573.13 that is not in a general reimbursement plan shall be submitted in your company's report to NHTSA under this section. If your company submits one or more general reimbursement plans, your company shall update each plan every two years, in accordance with § 573.13. Your company's remedy program and reimbursement plans will be available for inspection by the public at NHTSA headquarters (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(8)(i)). If the vehicles are new and would be covered under the manufacturer's warranty program, please state that in the remedy section of your filing.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Jennifer Kruger who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-2461, or by email at jennifer.kruger@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Joshua Neff

Chief, Recall Management Division Office of Defects Investigations

Enforcement

