

SPRUCE CREEK AIRPORT,
PORT ORANGE, FL 32128-6792



PHONE: (386) 756-6632
WWW.KARLHAUS.NET
EMAIL: CBRAVO@KARLHAUS.NET

December 19, 2006

Mr. Paul Halata
President and CEO
Mercedes-Benz USA
One Mercedes Drive
Montvale, N.J. 07645

Re: Critical defect – C280, Wiring

Dear Mr. Halata:

I have owned many Mercedes-Benz vehicles the past 30 years, currently have a SL600 and a C280, bought new. Recently, our C280 unexpectedly stalled in the highway while my wife was driving with my 6 year old child. While on the highway shoulder she was able to restart the car, but ran with very little power and quite rough. The vehicle stalled again and failed to be restarted. After towing it to our garage and after much testing, it was found that the engine main wiring harness had multiple shorts as a result of the wiring insulation having degraded and basically disintegrated. Upon investigation I was able to discover that this is a well known design and manufacturing defect affecting your vehicles manufactured during 1991-1997. The information I was able to gather indicates that Mercedes Benz used an unsuitable material for the wiring insulation.

I am sure you are aware of the following web site, which has a quite lengthy list of furious MB owners that have been victimized as a result of your known defective design.

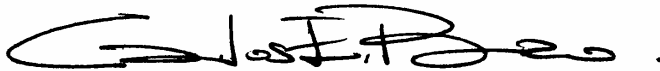
http://users.adelphia.net/~infoage1/complaints_nhtsa_mercedes_wiring_harness_failures_1991_1997.html

I contacted my local dealer, Mercedes Benz of Daytona Beach and spoke with Mr. Bruce Jones, Service Manager about this problem. He refused to provide any assistance to resolve the problem. I also contacted your office and was told that, since the “warranty expired” Mercedes Benz of America will decline to do anything about resolving the situation (Rep: Carol). When I suggested filing complaints with the NHTSA she indicated that “people file complaints there for all kinds of irrelevant things, like tires and others... they [the NHTSA] does not do anything about it...”

I am sure you are aware that there is no statute of limitations for manufacturing defects that affect safety. There are also issues with implied covenants of fitness and intended use. There is clear and convincing evidence that the problem is a direct result of a design and manufacturing defect. Further, there is evidence that Mercedes Benz USA has been aware of the problem as far back as 1995, yet failed to act proactively and in good faith. There is also irrefutable evidence that the defect materially affects the usability, fitness of use, safety, value and reasonable expectations of enjoyment of the vehicle, and that the premature failure of the wiring presents no reasonable argument for normal "wear and tear".

Despite the informal nature of this communication, please be aware that I fully intend to protect my rights under the law. I would appreciate someone from your office contacting me within the next ten days. If I do not hear from your company, I will have to assume you are uninterested in resolving a critical material issue with your vehicles and will pursue vigorously the protection of my rights.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos E. Bravo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

Carlos E. Bravo
CEO

cc: Dr. Dieter Zetsche
Chairman of the Board, DaimlerChrysler
DaimlerChrysler AG
70546 Stuttgart
GERMANY

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, US Department of Transportation
Florida Attorney General
Florida Division of Consumer Services (Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services)

Enclosure(s)



Office of Defects Investigation

VOQ Confirmation

Your Complaint Information is successfully submitted.

Your Confirmation number (ODI Number) is: **10176538**

Your Complaint Information

Consumer Information

Name : Dr. Carlos E Bravo
Org. Name :
Address : 1713 Sky Hawk Ct.
City, State, Zip : Port Orange, FL 32128
 USA
Daytime Phone : 386-756-6632 **Ext :**
Evening Phone : **Fax :**
Email : flyinboy@gmail.com

[top](#)

Complaint Information

Description : The main wiring harness for the engine, fuel injection and rest of critical functions of the vehicle (1995 C280) has disintegrated due to a manufacturing defect. The manufacturer seemed to have used an inferior an unsuitable insulation for the wires, which, for no reason other than time, deteriorate allowing the wires to short and prevent the vehicle from functioning as well as creating a hazardous situation (stalling in freeway, fire in engine, etc). The manufacturer is aware of the defect but refuses to provide a solution or to assist in any way. We have owned this vehicle since new and have maintained it with the utmost care.

Incident Date : 12/10/2006 **Fire :** No
Num. Failures : 1 **Property Damage :** Yes
Num. Deaths : 0 **Crash :** No
Num. Injured : 0 **Police Report :** No
Referral Source : NHTSA

[top](#)

Vehicle Information

VIN : WDBHA28E0SF277287 **Purchase Date :** 9/19/1995
Manufacturer : MERCEDES-BENZ USA, LLC.
Year, Make and Model : 1995/MERCEDES BENZ/280 **Original Owner :** Yes
of Cylinders : 6 **Trans. Type :** AUTOMATIC
Engine Size : 2.8 liter **VehicleDetails Usage :**
Cruise Control : Yes **Antilock Brakes :** Yes
Current Mileage : 82578 **Speed :** 60
Failure Mileage : 82578 **Powertrain :** REAR WHEEL DRIVE
Body Style : 4-DOOR **Fuel System :** FUEL INJECTION
Fuel Type : GAS **Vehicle Type :** PASSENGER CAR

Vehicle Component Information

Component 1:	ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:WIRING:FRONT UNDERHOOD	OEM:	No
Component 2:	ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:IGNITION	OEM:	No
Component 3:	FUEL SYSTEM, GASOLINE:FUEL INJECTION SYSTEM	OEM:	No

Vehicle Dealer Information

 Dealer : 1**Name :** Mercedes Benz of Daytona Beach**Dealer Type :** SALES DEALER**Address :** 1720 Mason AvenueDaytona Beach
FL 32117**Dealer Phone:** 386-274-4775**Dealer Fax:****Email:**

[top](#)