



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC
A Daimler Company

MBUSA Position Statement re Steering Components

To promote and maintain its rigorous standards of quality and safety, if a repair is necessary, MBUSA strongly recommends that all repairs are to be performed by a certified technician using only genuine Mercedes-Benz parts.

Steering, suspension, and drive axle components are important to a vehicle's control and handling; their original design, measurements, and integrity are essential to safe operation.

- For safety reasons, the steering gear **must** be replaced if components of the front axle, steering gear, or any part of the steering linkage are deformed or damaged. A shock transmitted to the steering gear through the front axle or steering linkage may have caused damage that is not externally visible. A pressure test or crack test required for this is not possible in the workshops; therefore the steering gear is to be replaced in cases of doubt. If it is decided that the original steering gear remain in the vehicle, contrary to the intent of this document , we recommend having this decision of the appraiser or insurance company officer confirmed in writing with signature.
- In the event of damage to the engine compartment paneling or the steering plate, the steering gear must then be checked for damage. In particular, the steering gear housing must be visually inspected for signs of external damage and cracks. The steering gear has to be removed to enable inspection to be performed. This is necessary in order to ensure the steering components are not also damaged. In cases of doubt, the steering gear must be replaced.
- In the event of accidents with body damage (e.g. deformed fender, longitudinal member, side paneling, rear end etc.) the steering gear can be used again on condition that parts of the front axle, the steering gear or steering linkage (tie rods, drag link) are not damaged.
- In the event of steering wheel airbag deployment, the steering wheel and steering column tube must always be replaced. Damage can occur to the steering wheel and the steering column tube which is not externally visible.

