

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 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 its safe operation.

Mercedes-Benz vehicles and Genuine Parts are designed and manufactured to meet production-engineered specifications while maximizing the safety of all occupants during a collision. If a collision repair is necessary, MBUSA strongly recommends that all repairs be performed by a certified technician using only Genuine Mercedes-Benz Parts, mechanical components, and electrical components, as well as safety devices such as airbags and seat belts. The official replacement and repair procedures are available in the Workshop Information System (WIS), and are continually updated and specific to each model and repair.

- For safety reasons, the steering gear must be replaced if components of the front axle or 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 will 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 an accompanying signature.
- In the event of damage to the engine compartment paneling or steering plate, the steering gear must be checked for damage. In particular, the steering gear housing must be visually inspected for signs of external damage and cracks. The steering gear must be removed in order to enable the inspection to be performed. This is necessary in order to ensure that the steering components have not also been damaged. In cases of doubt, the steering gear must be replaced.
- In the event of accidents with body damage (e.g., a deformed fender, longitudinal member, side panel, rear end, etc.), the steering gear can be used again on the condition that the components of the front axle, the steering gear, or steering linkage (e.g., tie rods or the 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 steering column tube that is not externally visible.

