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## Airbags

The most effective occupant restraint system yet developed for use in production vehicles is the seat belt. In some cases, however, the protective effect of a seat belt can be further enhanced by an airbag.

The driver airbag (1) is located in the steering wheel hub. The passenger airbag (2) is located in the dashboard ahead of the passenger. In conjunction with wearing the seat belts with emergency tensioning retractors (4), they provide increased protection for the driver and passenger.

The operational readiness of the airbag system is verified by the indicator lamp "SRS" (3) in the instrument cluster. If no fault is detected, the lamp will go out after approximately 4 seconds; after the lamp goes out, the system continues to monitor the components and circuitry of the airbag system and will indicate a malfunction by coming on again.

The following system components are monitored or undergo a self-check: crash-sensor, airbag ignition circuit, driver and front passenger seat belt buckles. Initially, when the key is turned from steering lock position 0 to positions 1 or 2, malfunctions in the crash-sensor are detected and indicated (the "SRS" indicator lamp stays on longer than 4 seconds).

In the operational mode, after the indicator lamp has gone out following the initial check, interruptions and short circuits in the airbag ignition circuit and in the driver and front passenger seat belt buckle harnesses, and low voltage in the entire system are detected and indicated.

In the event a malfunction of the "SRS" is indicated as outlined above, the "SRS" may not be operational. We strongly recommend that you visit an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer immediately to have the system checked; otherwise the "SRS" may not be activated when needed.

### **Important!**

**The airbags are designed to activate only in certain frontal and front-angled impacts. Only during these types of impacts will they provide their supplemental protection. The driver and passenger should always wear the seat belts, otherwise it is not possible for the airbags to provide their intended supplemental protection.**

**In cases of other frontal impacts, roll-overs, certain side impacts, rear collisions, or other accidents without frontal forces, the airbags will not be activated. The driver and passenger will then be protected by the fastened seat belts.**

### **Important!**

**The "SRS" is designed to reduce the potential of injury in certain frontal and front-angled impacts which may cause injuries, however, no system available today can totally eliminate injuries and fatalities.**

**The activation of the "SRS" temporarily releases a small amount of dust from the airbags. This dust, however, is neither injurious to your health, nor does it indicate a fire in the vehicle.**

**The service life of the airbags extends to the date indicated on the label located on the driver-side door latch post. To provide continued reliability after that date, they should be inspected by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer at that time and replaced when necessary.**

**We caution you not to rely on the presence of an airbag in order to avoid wearing your seat belt.**

**Warning!**

It is very important for your safety to always be in a properly seated position and to wear your seat belt.

For maximum protection in the event of a collision always be in normal seated position with your back against the seat back. Fasten your seat belt and ensure that it is properly positioned on the body.

Since the airbag inflates with considerable speed and force, a proper seating position will keep you in a safe distance from the airbag:

- Sit properly belted in an upright position with your back against the seat back.
- Adjust the driver seat as far as possible rearward, still permitting proper operation of vehicle controls.
- Do not lean with your head or chest close to the steering wheel or dashboard.
- Adjust the passenger seat as far as possible rearward from the dashboard, especially when a child restraint is installed.

- Infants and small children should only be seated in a rear seat and be properly secured in a child restraint system.
- Rear-facing child restraints must not be used in a front seat.

Failure to follow these instructions can result in severe injuries to you or other occupants.

## Safety Guidelines for the Seat Belt, Emergency Tensioning Retractor and Airbag

### Warning!

- Damaged belts or belts that were highly stressed in an accident must be replaced and their anchoring points must also be checked. Use only belts installed or supplied by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.
- Do not pass belts over sharp edges.
- Do not make any modification that could change the effectiveness of the belts.
- The "SRS" is designed to function on a one-time-only basis. An airbag or emergency tensioning retractor (ETR) that was activated must be replaced.

- No modifications of any kind may be made to any components or wiring of the "SRS". This includes the installation of additional trim material, badges etc. over the steering wheel hub or front passenger airbag cover and installation of additional electrical/electronic equipment on or near "SRS" components and wiring.
- Several airbag system components at the steering wheel get hot after the airbag has inflated. Don't try to touch them.
- Improper work on the system, including incorrect installation and removal, can lead to possible injury through an uncontrolled activation of the "SRS".

- In addition, through improper work there is the risk of rendering the "SRS" inoperative. Work on the "SRS" must therefore only be performed by an authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.
- When scrapping the airbag unit or emergency tensioning retractor, it is mandatory to follow our safety instructions. These instructions are available at your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer.

When you sell the vehicle we strongly urge you to give notice to the subsequent owner that it is equipped with an "SRS" by alerting him to the applicable section in the Owner's Manual.

## Infant and Child Restraint Systems

We recommend that all infants and children be restrained at all times while the vehicle is in motion.

### Important!

The use of infant or child restraints is required by law in all 50 states and all Canadian provinces.

Infants and small children should be seated in an infant or child restraint system, which is properly secured by a lap belt or lap belt portion of a lap-shoulder belt, and that complies with U.S. Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213 and Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 213.1. A statement by the child restraint manufacturer of compliance with this standard can be found on the instruction label on the restraint and in the instruction manual provided with the restraint.

When using any infant or child restraint system, be sure to carefully read and follow all manufacturer's instructions for installation and use.

### Warning!

According to accident statistics, children are safer when properly restrained in the rear seating positions than in the front seating positions.

Rear-facing child restraints must not be used in the front passenger seat. They could be struck by the airbag when it inflates in a crash. If this happens, a child in the restraint could be seriously or fatally injured.

Infants and small children should never be held on the lap while the vehicle is in motion. During an accident they would be almost impossible to hold, and could be crushed between the adult and the dashboard.

Infants and small children should never share a seat belt with another occupant. During an accident, they could be crushed between the occupant and seat belt.

Children too big for child restraint systems should ride in rear seats using regular seat belts. Position shoulder belt across chest and shoulder, not face or neck. A booster seat may be necessary to achieve proper belt positioning.

When the child restraint is not in use, remove it from the car or secure it with the seat belt to prevent the child restraint from becoming a projectile in the event of an accident.

### U.S.A. Models only:

Since 1986 all U.S. child restraints comply with U.S. regulations without the use of a tether strap.

### Canada Models only:

This vehicle is provided with tether anchorages for a top tether strap. Consult your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for installation of these anchorages.

In compliance with Canadian Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 210.1, child restraint tether anchorage hardware is attached to the tool kit located in the cargo area.