

AUTOMOTIVE

Mercedes-Benz permitted to expand automated driving technology in US

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With certification from the state of California, Mercedes-Benz may now offer Drive Pilot-enabled models to the country's most populous state. Image credit: Mercedes-Benz

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

German automaker Mercedes-Benz's "Drive Pilot" feature will soon be made more readily available.

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Prior to a recent legislative update, the brand's tool allowing drivers to temporarily divert attention from traffic could only make claims to the confirmation of the system's compliance with state regulations from the state of Nevada. With new certifications in California, Mercedes-Benz may now offer the enablement in the country's most populous state, raising the automotive player's profile amongst a competitive landscape of self-driving vehicle advancements.

"Mercedes-Benz Drive Pilot is the world's only SAE Level 3 system with internationally valid type approval," said Markus Schfer, chief technology officer overseeing development and procurement, and member of the board of management at [MercedesBenz Group AG](#), in a statement.

"It builds on a very robust foundation, setting new industry standards," Mr. Schfer said. "Drive Pilot uses a highly sophisticated vehicle architecture based on redundancy with a multitude of sensors enabling comfortable and safe conditionally automated driving.

"The certification by the authorities in California and in Nevada once again confirms that redundancy is the safe and thus the right approach."

Racing ahead

Mercedes-Benz's regulatory milestone is set to expand the availability of an in-house offering stateside, potentially widening use as peers in the space continue to innovate.

According to the brand, California's verdict renders Mercedes-Benz the "first car manufacturer with authorization to introduce such an SAE Level 3 system in a standard-production vehicle for use on public freeways in the most populous state in the U.S."

With initial deliveries slated for late 2023, Drive Pilot will be introduced as an option for U.S.-based owners of 2024 MercedesBenz S-Class and EQS Sedan models.

[#MercedesBenz](#) DRIVE PILOT now certified in the state of California. DRIVE PILOT uses a highly sophisticated vehicle architecture based on redundancy with a multitude of sensors enabling comfortable and safe conditionally automated driving.

More: <https://t.co/i8Bi2KzGUU> pic.twitter.com/uvS8JwPJ99

Mercedes-Benz Press (@MB_Press) [June 12, 2023](#)

The automaker's program is equipped to take over at up to speeds of 40 mph, controlling for speed and distance while operating within its lane.

Drive Pilot is also capable of reacting to unexpected traffic situations, an area that has previously brought American automaker Tesla legal troubles in the US market ([see story](#)).

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