

SL 65 BLACK SERIES

CARBON BODY FIRST · V12 ANCILLARIES · NO ABC BY DESIGN · 350 CARS

Compiled from public sources, the SL 65 AMG Black Series, its Model File and specialist review · Personal use only · v2.1

WHAT THIS CHECKLIST IS, AND WHAT IT IS NOT

This checklist gives an enthusiast the context to follow what is being discussed around an SL 65 Black Series transaction. It replaces nothing. Three hundred and fifty cars: a fixed carbon roof where the Vario roof was, a thousand newton metres held back by electronics, and one of the steadiest AMG V12s ever built. The base engine is not the worry: the V12 ancillaries, the turbos, the carbon body and the originality are. The ABC chapter of the normal R230 does not exist here, deleted by design. What decides is the service history, the carbon verdict and the paper. Without the specialist verdict on body and drivetrain, do not touch the car.

A · IDENTITY & ORIGINALITY

- ☐ Identity first: build number, original Black Series specification against the data card.
- ☐ Original carbon parts confirmed piece by piece: bonnet, fenders, roof, decklid, splitter, diffuser.
- ☐ Original wheels and equipment confirmed; conversions listed and priced.
- ☐ Service history complete and documented; ownership chain traced.
- ☐ VIN check for open service and recall measures, all closed.
- ☐ Accident history established: carbon hides nothing from a specialist.
- ☐ Every document photographed for the collector dossier.

B · THE V12 · COMPLEXITY, NOT FEAR

- ☐ Cold start filmed: even idle, oil pressure, no smoke from either bank.
- ☐ Compression and leakdown measured across all twelve.
- ☐ Turbos: boost pressure, oil lines, bearing noises, leaks.
- ☐ Intercoolers and charge-air hoses checked through.
- ☐ Coils and plugs: age, history, misfire memory: 12 and 24 of them, budget accordingly.
- ☐ Oil leaks and engine mounts inspected: the documented age items.
- ☐ 722.6: oil history, connector sleeve, conductor plate, converter, adaptations.

C · CHASSIS, BRAKES & ELECTRONICS

- ☐ Coilovers: adjusters, dampers, top mounts, control arms, rear bearings, measurement.
- ☐ Brakes with use in mind: discs, pads, calipers, heat history.
- ☐ Electronics through the full diagnosis: SAM units, COMAND, ESP, seat modules.
- ☐ Rubber, hoses and bushings assessed by CALENDAR on a fifteen-plus-year car.
- ☐ Storage history read honestly: the standing-time doctrine applies.

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D · PRICE & INVESTIGATION ITEMS

The engine is steadfast: the price sits in the carbon body, the ancillary state, the originality and the paper.

- ☐ Any missing or non-original carbon part: sourcing priced at Black Series rates.
- ☐ Turbo findings: quoted at specialist level before purchase.
- ☐ The ancillary package (coils, plugs, hoses, mounts, leaks): quoted for the first year.
- ☐ Chassis-bearing wear: the full package quoted.
- ☐ Open VIN measures: closed before money moves.
- ☐ Documentation gaps: priced as provenance risk, decisive at 350 cars.
- ☐ Negotiate from the carbon verdict, the engine file and the originality list.

E · RED FLAGS · WALK-AWAY OR ESCALATION

- Non-original or repaired carbon parts sold as original.
- A V12 with unknown ancillary history at full asking price.
- Turbo noises or boost findings talked away as character.
- An accident history that only surfaces on the lift.
- A long-stored car sold with no recommissioning file.
- Aged rubber and hoses defended as originality.
- A seller who resists the specialist inspection.
- A car whose findings cannot be named, quantified and priced.

F · FIRST WEEK OF OWNERSHIP

- ☐ The dossier archived: carbon verdict, engine file, measurements, VIN confirmations, originality list.
- ☐ The specialist relationships established: AMG V12 mechanic and a body operation versed in limited AMG.
- ☐ The ancillary baseline set: fluids, coils and plugs by history, hoses and mounts by calendar.

"Three hundred and fifty cars, twelve cylinders, one roof that never folds. The engine will hold: mind its helpers, guard the carbon, prove the paper. That is the whole Black art of this one."

Deep dive: Supercar Models Paper 102 · Model File 102 · Owner's Intelligence series.