

SLS AMG

SERVICE HISTORY FIRST · GULLWING CHAPTER · M159 LOW RISK · VIN CAMPAIGNS

Compiled from public sources, the Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG, 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 SLS AMG transaction. It replaces nothing. The first sports car AMG ever developed entirely itself: aluminium spaceframe, front-mid M159, transaxle DCT, gullwing doors, and one of the cleanest reliability records in this register. What decides is the Mercedes service history, the dry-sump maintenance, the door struts, the structure after any accident, and three airbag campaigns answered by VIN. The Black Series is its own file and its own world. Without the specialist verdict on structure and history, do not touch the car.

A · IDENTITY & THE RECORD

- ☐ Identity first: coupe or roadster, standard, GT or Final Edition, against the data card.
- ☐ A Black Series story stops this checklist: that is its own file.
- ☐ Complete Mercedes/AMG service history; dry-sump service per factory specification.
- ☐ VIN campaign check: 16V081, 17V017, 19V010 and all service measures closed.
- ☐ Original wheels and specification confirmed; accident history documented.
- ☐ Every document photographed for the collector dossier.

B · POWERTRAIN

- ☐ Cold start filmed: even idle, oil pressure, no valvetrain noise.
- ☐ Compression and leakdown on evidence; oil loss and mounts inspected.
- ☐ Camshaft adjusters checked on high-mileage cars: the isolated, honest item.
- ☐ DCT: adaptations, oil history, shift quality, clutch wear, mechatronics.
- ☐ Software level confirmed: shift-behaviour updates documented where applied.

C · DOORS, STRUCTURE & CHASSIS

- ☐ Gullwing doors: gas struts by age, hinges, emergency release, locking, gaps.
- ☐ Spaceframe: accident question first: repairs documented, measurement, joints, underbody.
- ☐ Chassis: control arms, top mounts, dampers, rear bearings, geometry.
- ☐ Brakes per specification: steel or ceramic: discs, pads, heat, stone chips.
- ☐ Electronics through the full diagnosis: COMAND, cluster, door modules, DCT controller.
- ☐ Storage history read honestly: the standing-time doctrine applies.

D · PRICE & INVESTIGATION ITEMS

The engine is the calm part: the price sits in the history, the structure, the doors and the paper.

- ☐ Any structural finding: specialist verdict and documented repair before any price talk.
- ☐ Door-strut renewal: priced, an age item on every coupe now.
- ☐ DCT service due or software open: scheduled and priced.
- ☐ Open VIN campaigns: closed before money moves.
- ☐ Ceramic discs where fitted: measured and priced by state.
- ☐ Service gaps: priced as documentation risk on a collector-grade car.
- ☐ Negotiate from the record: history file, structure verdict, originality list.

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E · RED FLAGS · WALK-AWAY OR ESCALATION

- Spaceframe repairs without documentation or measurement protocol.
- A service history with gaps around the dry-sump system.
- Open airbag campaigns.
- Door mechanism findings talked away as character.
- A Final Edition or GT story the data card cannot confirm.
- A long-stored car sold with no recommissioning file.
- 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: service file, structure verdict, campaign confirmations, originality list.
- ☐ The AMG specialist relationship established; the dry-sump regime confirmed.
- ☐ Door struts, fluids and tyres baselined by age.

"AMG's first own car, and still its cleanest file: a spaceframe, a dry sump, two doors that open to the sky. Verify the history, respect the structure, answer the campaigns by VIN. The rest is joy."

Deep dive: Supercar Models Paper 103 · Model File 103 · Owner's Intelligence series.

FINDINGS & NOTES