

Mercedes SL500 - Intermittent Indicator Bulb



The contact point on the bulb holder had burnt through due to a poor contact

It is not uncommon to get a customer tell us that although the bulb failure light is on, all the bulbs seem to be operating correctly. The modern addition of CAN Bus controlled lighting on many vehicles means that when a bulb blows, the system can substitute another bulb in the same area to act in its place.

The dash display of this 2002 Mercedes SL500 was showing its owner that there were two bulbs that were inoperative. One was a rear side light and the other a front indicator. The rear side light had substituted a brake light bulb fed at a lower voltage and the front indicator has substituted a fog lamp.

Replacing the blown side light bulb rectified the problem at the rear, but the front indicator bulb appeared to be in good order. When tested, we discovered it was in perfect working order. The problem here was the bulb holder itself, which had a burnt contact point. Wiggling the bulb holder in the lamp would temporarily restore the indicator operation. This was not satisfactory and a new bulb holder was ordered and fitted.