

# Mercedes-Benz

## QUALITY CONTROL

It is not at all surprising that for every ten skilled workers engaged in production of a Mercedes-Benz there is one in quality control. Nor is it surprising that while much of our manufacture is carried out by highly-automated equipment, a great deal of the car is still hand-made.

There is almost a quiet, dignified feel about the manufacturing process. Quality inspection is continuous. It is not something that simply happens at the end, before the car is despatched. Controls are so strict that inspectors even continually check the strengths of body welds.

The company operates a self-contained shop where every seat destined for its cars is individually built up, padded and trimmed with fabrics that are hand-stitched by a team of special seamstresses. Not far away is the woodworking shop, where those elegant fillets of special burled walnut and zebrano wood are selected, cut, stained and finished to their rich gloss. In fact, in this case, we are able to improve on nature's handiwork, for during the woodworking process small strips of aluminium are sandwiched into the wood to prevent it splintering under heavy impact.

The care taken in the making of our cars is never reflected better than in the surface finish. The engineers take a very practical view of it. That hand-burnished glittering enamel coat is to them only the exterior manifestation of a multiple of elements designed to protect the car totally from the ravages of weather and time.

Certainly, it must fulfil its role of complementing the elegance and style that has emerged from the designer's genius, but the structure of that

