

**NHTSA ccmMercury Routing Slip**



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**Subject: LTR CONCERNING A DEFECT OF THE SEQUENTIAL MANUAL GEAR TRANSMISSION ON HER LEASED 2003 BMW M3**

Ack Date:  
Sign Office: ENFORCEMENT  
Cleared Date:  
File Loc:  
Added By: SHARRIS x62534

Ack By:  
Signature: WEINSTEIN *Kathy D.*  
Cleared By:  
XREF File:  
Modified By: SHARRIS

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Assigned To	Task	Asgn Date	Deadline	Returned Date
NVS-200	REPLY	12/23/2004	1/10/2005	
NVS-010	INFORMATION	12/23/2004		12/23/2004

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
2004 DEC 23 10 11  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY  
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

*Jessica  
m/j  
12/23/04*

*SDH*



CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT

Manalapan, FL

DEC 23 / A 9 11

NATIONAL HIGHWAY  
TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMIN.

November 17, 2004

NHTSA  
US Department of Transportation  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: 2003 BMW M3  
VIN: WBSBR93483P [REDACTED]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am reporting what I consider to be a defect which could cause a crash or could cause injury or death.

I leased my BMW M3 in June of 2003 and have since experienced a relatively constant problem with my sequential manual gear transmission (SMG). Whether in automatic or in manual modes the car lurches (stops and starts), moving only inches at a time. This occurs probably once a day while I am accelerating from a stop. In my estimation it occurs when the transmission is automatically shifting from first to second gear. On these occasions the car will be traveling less than 10 MPH and virtually stops the car which then moves inches as it lurches.

The danger that I perceive is from drivers behind me anticipating that I am accelerating from a stop light or stop sign but the car does not in fact accelerate, causing them to almost hit me. If this continues the car will be hit in the rear. Worse, it occurs occasionally during a left turn which causes the car to virtually stop in the oncoming lane. This happened to me on one occasion where a truck was approaching in the lane in which I was stuck and I thought I was going to be hit.

I have taken this to Braman Motorcars of West Palm Beach repeatedly for this phenomenon but they have been completely unable to fix it. The BMW representative also experienced this phenomenon while driving my car with me in the passenger seat. His excuse was that I was driving it incorrectly.

Finally, I have been told by others that this is a problem that BMW knows well but doesn't

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want to admit. In that regard, of the six or seven occasions where I had taken it to Braman BMW in West Palm Beach, I believe that I have only received one service ticket which recorded my complaint. On the other visits Braman either didn't give me a service receipt or did not record that particular complaint.

Sincerely,

