



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

JAN 24 2005

NVS-216 jls
Ref. # 10105574

[REDACTED]
Manalapan, FL [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated November 17, 2004, concerning a problem you encountered with your model year (MY) 2003 BMW M3 vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on December 23, 2004.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect is warranted.

A review of our database relative to reported problems associated with the sequential manual gear transmission in MY 2002 through 2004 BMW vehicles revealed insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation at this time. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

If further assistance is needed, please contact Mr. Alberto A. Jimenez, Chief, Correspondence Research Division, Office of Defects Investigation, at (202) 366-5211.

Sincerely,

Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4236