

FROM:

Dec 30, 2004

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McLean, VA

TO:

NHTSA and BMW

Reporting potentially dangerous condition in a 1999 BMW 540 sedan.

Enclosed is a copy of a note I faxed to the BMW dealer in Fairfax Virginia describing my experience with a potentially dangerous condition. I have often heard of similar conditions, in other makes of cars, which are referred to as stuck accelerators. I assume if an accelerator gets stuck it would remain at the last position set by the driver. In my case the engine rpm continued to increase after I removed my foot from the accelerator and placed it on the brake. In all cases my car was moving at less than 5 mph when the condition occurred.

Yours truly,

Jessica
1/19/05

To: Fairfax BMW, attention service manager Dec. 29, 2004
From:

Subject: Potentially dangerous condition

I have a 1999 540 automatic (VA tag) which I bought new from you and have been the only driver for six years. All the maintenance on the car has been done in your shop. In those six years I have experienced the following condition about seven or eight times.

While moving the car in a parking lot, or parking space, at less than 5 mph, the engine suddenly starts racing and heads for the red line. When it happens I hit the brakes hard and turn off the ignition. The car is always in gear, usually Drive, but may have been in Reverse at least once. I have ignored the condition and attributed it to a computer program weakness. However, two weeks ago I almost broadsided a car in a parking lot and decided I should do something about it. As best I can describe what triggered the condition two weeks ago was the release of my foot off the gas peddle and quickly reapplying it to the gas peddle. This occurred as I started to move forward from a dead stop, hesitated because a car was coming and quickly reapplied the gas to move slowly ahead.

Might there be a factory technical bulletin on the condition?

My car is currently in your body shop for repairs that have nothing to do with the condition described above. I would like to have the condition fixed while it is currently in your shop.

VIN WBADN6337XG

McLean, VA