



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

DOT Auto Safety Hotline
Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire
To Report Vehicle Safety Defects
1-888-DASH-2-DOT 2008 AUG 4
(1-888-327-4236)
INTERNET: www.nhtsa.dot.gov/hotline

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY 100148

Date Received

Repository ☐

27-JUN-2008
AM 7:09

Reference No.
10232521

OWNER INFORMATION (Type or Print)

Name

Address

City

EMERYVILLE

State

CA

Zip Code

Daytime Telephone Number

E-mail Address

Evening Telephone Number

Do you authorize NHTSA to contact the manufacturer of your vehicle?
In the absence of an authorized signature, please provide the name or address to the vehicle manufacturer.
Signature of Owner

☐ YES ☒ NO
Date 7/22/08

VEHICLE INFORMATION

17 digit Vehicle Identification Number Located at bottom of windshield on driver's side
WMMWF73568

Make
MINI

Model

COOPER SPORT

Model Year

2008

Date Purchased

03/2008

Dealer's Name and Telephone Number

MINI RASMUSSEN 503.946.6464

Engine:

No: Cylinders

Fuel Type:

Original Owner

☐

Dealer's City

PORTLAND

State

OR

Zip Code

97201

Transmission Type

☐ Antilock Brakes

Powertrain

☐ Cruise Control

Vehicle Component Code

063000 ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING: EXHAUST SYSTEM

Multiple Failure:

FAILED COMPONENT(S)/PART(S) INFORMATION

Incident Date(s)
21-JUN-2008

Failure Mileage
1400

Failure Speed
0

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A TIRE FAILURE

Tire Make

Tire Model (Name or Number)

Tire Size (Example P215/65R15)

DOT No. (Example: DOTM19ABC036)

☐ Original Equipment
☐ Prior Repair

Failure Location:

Tire Component Code

Tire Failure Type

ADDITIONAL ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN REPORTING A CHILD SEAT FAILURE

Make:

Date Manufactured:

Model No./Name:

Seat Type:

Installation System:

Child Seat Component Code:

Failed Part:

APPLICABLE INCIDENT INFORMATION

(Please describe in detail the incident(s), failure(s), crash(es), and injury(ies).)

Crash

☐ Yes ☒ No

Fire

☐ Yes ☒ No

Number of Persons Injured
1

Number of Deaths
0

Reported to Police
N

Narrative Description of Incident(s), Crash(es), and Injury(ies).

Please describe (1) events leading up to the failure, (2) failure and its consequences, and (3) what was done to correct the failure; i.e., parts repaired or replaced (and if old part is available).

TL*THE CONTACT OWNS A 2008 MINI COOPER SPORT. WHILE REMOVING GROCERIES FROM THE REAR OF THE VEHICLE, THE CONTACT BURNED HER LEG ON THE EXHAUST PIPE, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN THE MIDDLE REAR OF THE VEHICLE. THE DEALER GAVE HER THE NUMBER TO THE MANUFACTURER, AND THEY STATED THAT THEY WOULD GET BACK WITH HER. SINCE THAT TIME, THE DEALER STATED THAT NOTHING ELSE COULD BE DONE DUE TO THE DESIGN OF THE EXHAUST SYSTEM. SHE WAS ADVISED TO NOT GET TOO CLOSE TO THE EXHAUST. THE FAILURE AND CURRENT MILEAGES WERE 1,400.

SEE ATTACHED DESCRIPTION FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Include, if available: Police/Fire Department Report, Photos, and Repair Invoice.

ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY

The Privacy Act of 1974-Public Law 93-579 This information is requested pursuant to authority vested in the National Highway Traffic Safety Act and subsequent amendments. You are under no obligation to respond to this questionnaire. Your response may be used to assist the NHTSA in determining whether a Manufacturer should take appropriate action to correct a safety defect. If the NHTSA proceeds with administrative enforcement or litigation against a manufacturer, your response, or a statistical summary thereof, may be used in support of the agency's action.

Narrative description to supplement existing information:

Current status: Dealer offered to inspect my car to check if exhaust pipe falls within design specifications. I believe the pipe likely meets the design as specified by the manufacturer, but that the design itself is flawed. Unlike most cars, the exhaust pipe is located in the middle rear of the vehicle (rather than off to the side), and more importantly, it slightly protrudes out past the edge of the rear bumper. This particular design/location makes someone accessing the trunk much more susceptible to accidentally touching the edge of the exhaust pipe and burning their leg.

Note that in conversations with the dealer, they acknowledged that several others have reported this problem as well and that they are aware of the issue. They, however, do not believe that it is a design flaw or a safety issue, and have no intentions of fixing it. I believe this issue could easily be fixed without significantly altering performance/design/aesthetics, by simply making the exhaust pipes shorter such that they are slightly recessed underneath the bumper. Included are several photos documenting the severity of the burn that I received.

Please note that this complaint should compliment defect investigation #PE08031, which is the exact defect that I am reporting. This defect investigation should apply to both 2007 and 2008 models of the Mini Cooper Sport.

Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] should you have any questions.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

**OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION (ODI)****Defects - Search Results**

1 Record(s) Displayed.

Report Date : July 23, 2008 at 05:59 PM

NHTSA Action Number : PE08031

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NHTSA Recall Campaign Number : N/A

Make / Models :

Model/Build Years:

MINI / COOPER S

2007

Manufacturer : BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC

Component :

ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING:EXHAUST SYSTEM

Date Investigation Opened : April 28, 2008

Date Investigation Closed : Open

Summary:

THE OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION HAS RECEIVED THREE REPORTS FROM CONSUMERS REPORTING THAT THEY WERE BURNED ON THEIR LEGS WHILE REMOVING CARGO FROM THE REAR HATCH AREA OF THE VEHICLE.



