



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

November 16, 2015

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senator
Landmark Two
225 East Robinson Street, Suite 410
Orlando, FL 32801

NVS-216 nam
Ref. No. 10761576

107615769

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your correspondence on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] concerning his model year (MY) 2004 BMW 325 Ci and MY 2008 Ford Mustang vehicles. I am pleased to respond.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. 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 trend may exist. We do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

[REDACTED] indicates that he received a recall notice in August 2014 for a defective air bag in his MY 2004 BMW 325Ci. He received a similar recall notice in July 2015 for a defective air bag in his MY 2008 Ford Mustang. He asserts that neither recall has been completed due to a parts availability issue. He also states that he contacted Ford, BMW, his local dealers, and the National Transportation Safety Board for assistance, but to no avail. [REDACTED] requests information regarding a date when the parts will be available.

NHTSA understands [REDACTED] concerns regarding the parts delay for both recalls. We entered the vehicle identification numbers (VIN) of [REDACTED] vehicles into our VIN Look-Up Tool, which searches for open recalls through a direct interface with the manufacturers' database. NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 14V-428 addresses a problem with Takata front passenger-side air bags that makes them susceptible to moisture intrusion and could cause the inflator to rupture in certain MY 2001 through MY 2005 BMW 3 series vehicles.

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Our VIN Look-Up Tool report confirms that Recall 14V-428 is still incomplete on [REDACTED] MY 2004 BMW 325Ci (enclosed). However, please inform [REDACTED] that the parts for this recall are currently available and are in dealers' inventories.

Our research revealed another incomplete recall on [REDACTED] MY 2004 BMW 325Ci. NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 15V-318 was initiated on May, 27, 2015, and addresses the same inflator problem in Takata front drivers-side air bags in certain MY 2002 through MY 2006 BMW 3 series vehicles (enclosed). The parts are currently not available for this recall. We recommend that [REDACTED] contact BMW or his dealer to schedule an appointment for Recall 14V-428 (to remedy the passenger side air bag) and for more information and updates on the parts availability for Recall 15V-318.

In addition, NHTSA is aware of the parts delay for the recall on [REDACTED] (MY) 2008 Ford Mustang. The recall (NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 15V-319, enclosed) addresses an inflator rupture problem in Takata front drivers-side air bags in certain MY 2005 through MY 2014 Ford Mustang vehicles. In July 2015, Ford sent interim notices to alert owners of the defective air bags and the parts delay. Please note that it is not unusual for manufacturers to have an inadequate inventory of recall parts or a final remedy soon after a recall is announced. Recall parts availability and final recall remedies can be affected by numerous factors including, but not limited to, redesign, testing, manufacturing, and logistics. We recommend that [REDACTED] continue to contact Ford and his dealer for the latest information on the recall and updates on the parts availability.

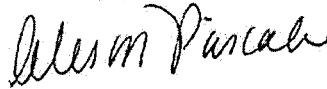
The expansion of the Takata recalls has increased the number of vehicles affected to approximately 19 million. On June 17, 2015, NHTSA verified that VIN's for vehicles made by the 12 automakers involved were available, and that owners could now search on NHTSA's and manufacturers' VIN look-up tools to determine if their vehicles are affected. On September 16, 2015, NHTSA released an updated list of all makes and models affected by the 44 Takata recalls to-date. To protect the American public from certain defective air bag inflators supplied by Takata, NHTSA ordered all 12 vehicle manufacturers to accelerate recall repairs and prioritize vehicles to reduce the risk of rupture under a Coordinated Remedy Order. Completion deadlines for fixing the 19 million vehicles under recall will begin in 2017 and end in 2019. Under a NHTSA Consent Order, Takata has agreed to Federal oversight for the next 5 years, to phase out the use of the propellant believed to be related to the air bag inflator ruptures, and to pay record civil penalties up to \$200 million. For the most up-to-date information on the Takata recalls, please visit our web site at www.safercar.gov/rs/takata/index.html.

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I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Mr. Frank S. Borris, Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 493-2631.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Pascale".

Alison Pascale
Director, Governmental Affairs,
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosures

cc: Washington Office

Recalls Results by VIN - Vehicle Identification Number

Print <

VIN: WBABD33464J [REDACTED]

Year: 2004 Make: BMW Model: 325Ci

Number of Open Recalls: 2

NHTSA Recall Number: [14V428](#)

Recall Date: July 15, 2014

Manufacturer Recall Number: NA

SUMMARY:

PASSENGER-SIDE FRONT AIR BAG: On certain model year 2000 - 2006 3 Series sedans, coupes and convertibles, including the M3 versions, the passenger-side front air bag may produce excessive internal pressure that could cause the inflator to rupture upon deployment of the air bag.

SAFETY RISK:

In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the passenger-side front air bag, excessive internal pressure could cause rupturing of the inflator, resulting in metal fragments striking and potentially seriously injuring the front passenger seat occupant or other occupants.

REMEDY:

Your BMW center will replace the passenger-side front air bag module.

RECALL STATUS: Recall INCOMPLETE**MANUFACTURER NOTES:**

For additional information or assistance, please contact Customer Relations and Services at 1-800-525-7417 or email at CustomerRelations@bmwusa.com.

*THIS RECALL DATA LAST REFRESHED: Oct 6, 2015*NHTSA Recall Number: [15V318](#)

Recall Date: May 27, 2015

Manufacturer Recall Number: NA

SUMMARY:

DRIVER-SIDE FRONT AIR BAG : During air bag deployment in an accident, the driver-side front air bag module may produce excessive internal pressure that could cause the inflator to rupture.

SAFETY RISK:

Inflator rupture could result in metal fragments striking the front driver or other passengers, potentially resulting in serious injury or death.

REMEDY:

Your BMW center will replace the driver-side front air bag module. Dependent upon parts availability, certain vehicle owners may be notified of the availability of an interim remedy, which replaces old parts with new parts. All owners, including those receiving the interim remedy, will be notified by US Mail when the permanent remedy becomes available. All affected vehicles must receive the permanent remedy.

RECALL STATUS: Recall INCOMPLETE. Remedy not yet available**MANUFACTURER NOTES:**

For additional information or assistance, please contact Customer Relations and Service at 1-800-525-7417 or via Email at CustomerRelations@bmwusa.com

*THIS RECALL DATA LAST REFRESHED: Sep 18, 2015***Additional Safety Information**

Besides the VIN search tool you just used, NHTSA offers additional safety information based on a vehicle's make, model, and model year and not tied to any particular VIN. A search by vehicle make, model, and model year gives you access to information about technical service bulletins, NHTSA investigations, and owner complaints, as well as safety recalls on aftermarket equipment that is often not linked to a particular VIN or even to your vehicle's manufacturer.

To search NHTSA's safety information based on your vehicle's make, model, and model year, please go to the [Safety Issues section](#) and follow the instructions there.

Recall information for this manufacturer is only available going back to January 01, 1999. If your vehicle was manufactured before this date, please contact the manufacturer for possible additional recall information.

Enter another VIN here:




Type the text

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Recalls Results by VIN - Vehicle Identification Number

Print 

VIN: 1ZVHT82H685 

Year: 2008 Make: FORD Model: Mustang

Number of Open Recalls: 1

NHTSA Recall Number: 15V319

Recall Date: May 27, 2015

Manufacturer Recall Number: 15S21

SUMMARY:

IN THE SUBJECT VEHICLES, CONTINUED EXPOSURE TO HIGH LEVELS OF ABSOLUTE HUMIDITY MAY CAUSE THE DRIVER AIRBAG INFLATOR HOUSING TO RUPTURE IF THE VEHICLE IS INVOLVED IN A CRASH WHERE THE SUPPLEMENTAL FRONT AIRBAGS ARE DESIGNED TO DEPLOY.

SAFETY RISK:

AN INFLATOR RUPTURE COULD RESULT IN METAL FRAGMENTS STRIKING AND POTENTIALLY SERIOUSLY INJURING VEHICLE OCCUPANTS.

REMEDY:

DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE DRIVER AIRBAG INFLATOR WITH A NEW ONE, FREE OF CHARGE.

RECALL STATUS: Recall INCOMPLETE. Remedy not yet available

MANUFACTURER NOTES:

TO CHECK FOR NON-SAFETY-RELATED PROGRAMS APPLICABLE TO YOUR VEHICLE, SEE [HTTP://WWW.FORD.COM/](http://www.ford.com/) OR CALL YOUR FORD DEALER.

THIS RECALL DATA LAST REFRESHED: Oct 8, 2015

Additional Safety Information

Besides the VIN search tool you just used, NHTSA offers additional safety information based on a vehicle's make, model, and model year and not tied to any particular VIN. A search by vehicle make, model, and model year gives you access to information about technical service bulletins, NHTSA investigations, and owner complaints, as well as safety recalls on aftermarket equipment that is often not linked to a particular VIN or even to your vehicle's manufacturer.

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Enter another VIN here:



Type the text

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Correspondence

Consumer

Correspondence Search > Correspondence List > Edit Correspondence

Information Select DeSelect Audit Trail Private ACMS (1) Slip Sheet Annotations 0/0 Hel

* Denotes Required Field

Correspondence

ODI Num : 10761576

Subject : * LETTER FROM SENATOR NELSON ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENT R

NHTSA Number : ES15-004566

CCM Number :

Num. Of Pages : 4

Date Received : * 09/02/2015

Source : CONGRESS

Type : * EXEC. SEC CONGRESSIONAL

Description : LETTER FROM SENATOR NELSON ON BEHALF OF CONSTITUENT RE VEHICLE AIRBAG RECALL (2004 325 SERIES BMW). *SMD

Spell Check

Writer

Response Type : CONGRESSIONAL Generate Letter

Respondent : MOODY, NICOLE

Due Date : 09/29/2015

Assigned To : * MOODY, NICOLE

Draft Date : 10/22/2015

Response Date : 11/16/2015

Congressional

First Name : BILL

Type : SENATOR

Last Name : NELSON

State : DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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