



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

INFORMATION REDACTED PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM
OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 19, 2018

[REDACTED]
Horseheads, NY [REDACTED]

NEF-109 nam
Ref. No. 11064879

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2005 BMW X3. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence. I am pleased to respond and regret any inconvenience our delay in responding may have caused you.

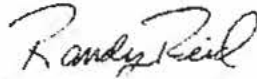
NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the completion rates and adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for NHTSA. We reviewed your photos and our database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with the seat heating system in MY 2005 BMW X3 vehicles that results in seat fires. We determined that the condition does not result in an open flame fire that can propagate to other components, but is limited to incidents of localized thermal/charring damage to seat material (e.g., small holes in the seat material in the areas of the heater element faults). At this time, there is insufficient evidence to indicate a defect trend that warrants opening a safety defect investigation or to initiate a safety recall. The information you provided has been entered into our database. It will be considered with future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. For your information, an explanation of NHTSA's investigation and recall process is on our website at www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls/recallprocess.cfm.

Please note that the seat materials used in the subject BMW X3 comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 302, which establishes the minimum requirement for flammability of interior materials. This standard specifies burn resistance requirements for material used in the occupant compartments of motor vehicles. Thus, mitigating the likelihood of seat heating elements igniting seat materials and causing a sudden or undetectable open flame incident.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, we would appreciate it if you would complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.gov or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at our website

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement