



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



December 2, 2020

[REDACTED]

NEF-109 tgd  
Ref. No. 11321023

Stanton, CA [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for the letter about your model year (MY) 2017 BMW I3 vehicle. Your letter was received by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. I am pleased to respond.

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 us. Please accept our sympathy for the injuries you sustained during the crash. We reviewed our database to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with unintended acceleration and air bag nondeployments in MY 2017 BMW I3 vehicles. At this time, we lack evidence to open a safety defect investigation or to initiate a recall. We entered your information into our database. It will be used with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. You can learn more about NHTSA's investigation and recall process on our website at [https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/mvdefectsandrecalls\\_808795.pdf](https://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/mvdefectsandrecalls_808795.pdf).

A number of factors, other than crash severity, can affect whether an air bag will deploy in a specific crash, e.g., the angle of impact, the speed of the involved vehicles, and the amount of force absorbed by vehicles or objects that are impacted. When provided with all necessary details and particularly after an opportunity to examine the vehicle(s) involved in a crash, an expert in crash reconstruction can provide an educated opinion as to whether the air bag in a vehicle should have deployed in a specific crash. We encourage you continue to work with BMW and your local dealer to determine the cause of the unintended acceleration and why the air bags did not deploy during the crash.

If you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, please complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov) or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Also, owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be reviewed on our website.

Sincerely,

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