



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

ODI RESUME

INVESTIGATION: RQ99-0
SUBJECT: Inadvertent Side Impact Airbag Deployment
PROMPTED BY: IE99-089 & 99V-063
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: **Nha Nguyen**

DATE OPENED:

MANUFACTURER: BMW of North America, Inc.
MODEL(S): M3
MODEL YEAR(S): 1999
POPULATION: TBD

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: The side door airbag deployed without side impact to the vehicle.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	1	Unknown	1
CRASHES:	0	"	0
INJ CRASHES:	0	"	0
# INJURIES:	1	"	1
FAT CRASHES:	0	"	0
# FATALS:	0	"	0
OTHER:	0	"	0

DESCRIPTION OF OTHER: None

ACTION: Open an RQ investigation.

ENGINEER: _____ DIV CHF: _____ OFC DIR: _____

DATE

DATE

DATE

SUMMARY: On March 26, 1999, BMW of North American, Inc. recalled 32,500 1999 323i and 328i manufactured up to April 1999, for inadvertent deployment of the side airbag system in certain non-crash impacts such as contacting large pot holes or curbs at substantial speed. As a remedy, BMW will recode the air bag control module of the affected vehicles with updated software. The recall was a result of an ODI safety defect investigation.

ODI received 1 consumer complaint of a 1999 model year M3 alleging the driver side door airbag deployed without side impact to the vehicle causing one injury. The complainant's M3 uses the same chassis as the 3-Series and was built in March 1999. The purpose of this RQ is to determine the adequacy of the scope of the recall.

RQ99V-063-BMW airbag-open