



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: DP 04-001
Prompted By: Consumer
Date Opened: 02/03/2004 Date Closed: 05/27/2004
Principal Investigator: Steve Chan
Subject: Delayed Transmission Engagement

Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke
Products: 2004 BMW 3-Series W/GM5 Transmission
Population: 49,706

Problem Description: The petitioner alleged that when shifted from 'reverse' to 'drive' there was a one-half minute to two minutes delay before the transmission is engaged in 'drive'.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	13	137	150
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description of Other:

Action: Petition denied.

Engineer: Steve Chan *Sc*

Date: 05/27/2004

Div. Chief: Jonathan D. White

Date: 05/27/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/27/2004

Summary: Ms. Claire M. Tieder of Reston, VA, submitted a defect petition to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) by letter dated January 11, 2004, requesting a defect investigation be conducted into delayed transmission engagement on model year 2004 BMW xi vehicles.

BMW's response to NHTSA's information request indicated that certain BMW 3-series vehicles equipped with the GM5 transmission may exhibited a forward 'park' to 'drive' engagement delay from 2 to 30 seconds. However, the condition can occur only during a vehicle "cold start," after the vehicle has been at rest for more than eight hours. Drivers experiencing the delay have learned to take precautionary and compensatory measures. BMW will replace affected transmissions exhibiting the delay, after the condition has been verified, with an improved unit. No alleged crashes, injuries, or fatalities have been reported to either BMW or NHTSA relating to this issue.

Based on analysis of NHTSA's consumer complaints and BMW's data, the petition is denied. For details, see federal register, vol. 69, no. 91 (May 11, 2004).