



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

OCT 3 2005

Mr. Grover Sheldon  
1607 Edenderry Ct.  
Garner, NC 27529

NVS-212mjl  
DP05-006

Dear Mr. Sheldon:

Please be advised that your petition to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) which was received on September 6, 2005, has been granted. The issue you identified will be considered under a Preliminary Evaluation, PE05-053. A copy of the opening resume for this investigation is enclosed. You can obtain further information about the investigation by visiting the NHTSA website at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems/defect/defectsearch.cfm> and entering the NHTSA Action Number (PE05053) into the Quick Search Field. New information will be added to the site as the investigation develops.

If you have or receive any additional information on this subject, we would appreciate receiving it. You will be notified of our findings at the conclusion of the investigation.

Sincerely,

Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement

Enclosure: Opening Resume PE05-053



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# ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 05-053  
Date Opened: 09/27/2005  
Principal Investigator: Michael Lee  
Subject: Air Bag Warning Lamp Illumination

Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke (BMW)  
Products: 2002-2003 Mini Cooper  
Population: 46,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Illumination of air bag warning lamp.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	14		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

\*Description Of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Michael Lee MJL

Date: 09/27/2005

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 09/27/2005

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 09/27/2005

Summary: ODI has received a petition from Mr. Grover Sheldon of Garner, North Carolina, stating that he has experienced recurrence of illumination of air bag warning lamp while driving on his model year (MY) 2003 Mini Cooper. The petition requests a defect investigation of MY 2002-2005 Mini Cooper vehicles.

ODI has received 14 complaints (including a complaint from Mr. Sheldon) of air bag warning lamp illumination on MY 2002 and 2003 Mini Coopers, and none on MY 2004 and 2005 Mini Coopers. Some of the complainants reported recurring air bag warning lamp illumination and that dealers replaced or repaired a wiring harness. In September 2003, BMW issued a service bulletin for air bag warning lamp illumination on MY 2002 and 2003 (built up to Jan. 2003) Mini Coopers. It states that increased resistance in seat connectors (for side air bags) can occur due to contamination or faulty crimping of contacts in the connectors, and the remedy is to replace the wiring to the side air bag and seat belt pretensioner.

ODI will examine the issue to determine if a safety-related defect trend (i.e., potential for non-deployment) may exist in MY 2002 and 2003 Mini Coopers.

9/27/05  
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