



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

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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