



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE07-045

Date Opened: 09/04/2007

Date Closed: 01/04/2008

Principal Investigator: Peter Ong

Subject: BMW Air Bag Light Illumination

Manufacturer: BMW of North America, LLC, Bayerische Motoren Werke

Products: 2005 and 2006 BMW 5 Series, 7 Series and X3 Vehicle

Population: 124,875

Problem Description: The occupant classification system for the passenger air bag may malfunction and render the passenger frontal air bag inoperative.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	6	280	286
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	13,051	13,051

Description of Other: Warranty claims related to air bag seat sensor issue

Action: Upgrade this Preliminary Evaluation to an Engineering Analysis (EA08-001)

Engineer: Peter Ong *PO*

Date: 01/04/2008

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 01/04/2008

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 01/04/2008

Summary:

In certain MY 2005 through MY 2006 BMW vehicles, the Occupant Classification System (OCS) for the passenger frontal air bag may malfunction and render the passenger air bag inoperative.

In June 2006, BMW issued a Technical Service Bulletin (SBI 72 02 06) regarding the illumination of the air bag warning light and the passenger air bag status lamp. Illumination of these lights warn that an open electrical circuit maybe present within the passenger seat mat sensor. When both of the lights are illuminated, the passenger frontal air bag will not deploy in a frontal crash.

Certain BMW vehicles in addition to the subject vehicles contain the same seat mat sensor. These are the MY 2004 5-series, 7-series and X3, the MY 2004 through 2006 Z-4 series and MY 2006 3-series, 6-series and X5 vehicles.

An improved seat mat sensor was introduced in December 2005 for the mid-MY 2006 production.

In response to ODI's information request letter, BMW provided 1,172 owner reports and 28,238 warranty claims. Initial review of the data indicate that 280 non-duplicating owner reports and 13,051 non-duplicating warranty claims may be related to the subject defect issue on the subject vehicles.

This Preliminary Evaluation is being upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA08-001).