



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 08-001
Prompted By: PE07-045
Date Opened: 01/04/2008
Principal Investigator: Peter Ong
Subject: BMW Air Bag Light Illumination

Manufacturer: BMW of North America, LLC, Bayerische Motoren Werke
Products: 2004-2006 BMW 5, 7, X3 & Z4 and 2006 3, 6 & X5 vehicles
Population: 333,247

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	729	735
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	23,739	23,739

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

Action: Open this Engineering Analysis

Engineer: Peter Ong *PO*
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: In certain MY 2004 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 (SI B 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 may be 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.

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

In response to ODI's information request letter, BMW provided 3,465 owner reports and 28,238 warranty claims. Initial review of the data indicate that 729 non-duplicating owner reports and 23,739 non-duplicating warranty claims may be related the subject defect issue on the subject vehicles

This Engineering Analysis is opened to further study this issue.