



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-036

Date Opened: 08/07/2009

Date Closed: 12/22/2009

Principal Investigator: Ali Motamedamin

Subject: Rear Lamp Illumination

Manufacturer: BMW of North America, LLC., Bayerische Motoren Werke  
Products: 2002 – 2005 BMW 3 Series (E46) Sedans  
Population: 231,717

Problem Description: Rear lamps are not illuminating due to malfunctioning electrical connections.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	25	910	935
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	30,615	30,615

\* Description of Other: Vehicles (unique) repaired under warranty for replacement of the outboard light assembly connector.

Action: The Preliminary Evaluation is closed. ODI will upgrade this investigation to an Engineering Analysis (EA09-019).

Engineer: Ali Motamedamin AM

Date: 12/22/2009

Div. Chief: D. Scott Yon

Date: 12/22/2009

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 12/22/2009

### Summary:

ODI has received complaints from consumers stating that their tail light assembly is not properly illuminating. The tail light assembly consists of a turn signal lamp, a tail lamp and a brake lamp. The complainants have indicated that the issue is with an 8 pin connector and associated ground wiring. These components are allegedly overheating and melting due to excessive electrical current that runs through the system.

BMW issued a Technical Service Bulletin (TSB) SIB-630306 on February 2007 to address the condition by adding supplementary ground wiring to the tail lamp assembly.

ODI is upgrading to an Engineering Analysis to further investigate the issue.