



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 09-036
Date Opened: 08/07/2009
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:	15	880	895
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

Action : A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) is opened.

Engineer: Ali Motamedamin A.A. Date: 08/07/2009
Div. Chief: D. Scott Yon Date: 08/07/2009
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter Date: 08/07/2009

Summary: The tail lamp assembly contains lighting for the brake lamps, tail lamps, and turn signals. A technical service bulletin (TSB) was issued by BMW in January of 2007, instructing service technicians to examine an 8 pin electrical connector for heat-related damage and to incorporate additional ground wiring to the connector. ODI is opening this Preliminary Evaluation to further examine this issue including further evaluating BMW complaints and related warranty data.