



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 10-020
Date Opened: 06/28/2010
Investigator: Michael Lee
Approver: Richard Boyd
Subject: Loss of Power Steering
Reviewer: Scott Yon

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC
Products: 2003-2005 BMW Z4
Population: 48,764 (Estimated)
Problem Description: Alleged loss of electric power assisted steering.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	107	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	1	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

Summary:

ODI has received 107 complaints alleging loss of power assisted steering while driving on model year 2003-2005 BMW Z4 vehicles. The complaints state that the steering wheel sticks, binds or locks up, and requires increased steering effort resulting in difficulty controlling the vehicle such as the potential to over-steer when making hard and abrupt steering wheel movements. The failures typically occur at higher vehicle speeds (45 mph or greater) and in warm/hot weather (75° F or higher) or after driving for a period of time. One complaint reported a crash and several complaints reported loss of vehicle control and near-miss incidents due to the steering failures.