

BMW Group

May 18, 2006

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

MAY 30 P 1: 38

DE, CIVIL INVESTIGATION

06 V-187
(6 pages)

**RE: Recall Campaign – Front Axle Control Arm and Tension Strut Nuts
2006 BMW 5-, 6-Series**

Dear Mr. Smith:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966 and 49 CFR Part 573.

Pursuant to Section 573.6(c), we submit the following information.

- Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW AG)

Designated Agent: BMW of North America, LLC
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677
- Make: BMW

<u>Model Year / Model</u>	<u>Inclusive dates of manufacture</u>
2006 / 5-, 6-Series	February 13, 2006
- The number of vehicles affected is approximately 40 total, 30 which are 5-Series and 10 which are 6-Series.
- The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is 100%.
- The defect involves the tightening torque of the nuts which secure the front axle control arm and tension strut to the front wheel hub. During vehicle assembly, the nuts may not have been tightened to specification. Over time, the nuts could loosen. If this occurred, noise from the area of the front axle would likely be heard. If this condition was not corrected, it is possible that the control arm and tension strut could be damaged. Ultimately, this could lead to a situation in which vehicle handling and control were compromised.
- BMW became aware of this matter as a result of internal quality control processes. Subsequent investigations and analyses resulted in a determination of the problem, as well as, the number of potentially affected vehicles.

BMW has not received any reports, nor is BMW otherwise aware of any accidents or injuries related to this issue.
- Not applicable.

Company

BMW of North America, LLC

BMW Group Company

Mailing address

PO Box 1227
Westwood, NJ
07675-1227

Office address

300 Chestnut Ridge Road
Woodcliff Lake, NJ
07677-7731

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(201) 307-4000

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Website

bmwusa.com

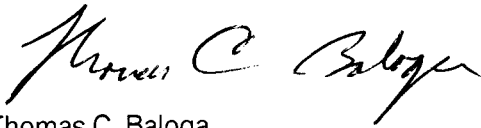


8. BMW will conduct a recall campaign to remedy the affected vehicles. Specifically, the front axle control arm and tension strut nuts will be retightened to the correct specifications.

BMW expects to begin and complete dealer and owner notification in May 2006.

9. A copy of the Service Bulletin will be submitted when available.
10. A draft copy of the owner notification letter is attached.
11. Not applicable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas C. Baloga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Thomas C. Baloga
General Manager
Safety Engineering and Intelligent Transportation Systems

Attachment

DRAFT

May, 2006

Recall Campaign No. 06V-XXX: Front Axle Control Arm and Tension Strut Nuts

Dear BMW Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

BMW AG has decided that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2006 Model Year BMW 5- and 6-Series vehicles. Our records indicate that you are the owner of a potentially affected vehicle.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

Description of Defect

The defect involves the tightening of the nuts which secure the front axle control arm and tension strut to the front wheel hub. These nuts may not have been tightened to specification.

Over time, the nuts could loosen. If this condition was not corrected then, over time, the control arm and tension strut could be damaged. This could eventually result in a situation in which vehicle handling and control were compromised.

Do not leave this problem unattended. Depending on traffic and road conditions and the driver's reactions, this could increase the risk of a crash.

Precautions

- 1. Contact your Authorized BMW Center immediately to have the necessary repair performed as soon as possible.**
- 2. If you hear an unusual noise coming from the area of the front axle, your vehicle may be experiencing this problem. In that case, you should pull over carefully to a safe location, and away from traffic. Do not continue to drive the vehicle. Please contact BMW Roadside Assistance immediately at 1-800-332-4269 to have the vehicle brought to the nearest Authorized BMW Center.**
- 3. BMW recommends that you always wear your safety belt, and that all passengers are properly seated and restrained at all times.**
- 4. If you are not the only driver of this vehicle, please advise all other drivers and passengers of this important information.**

Description of Repair

BMW will conduct a recall campaign to remedy the affected vehicles. Specifically, the front axle control arm and tension strut nuts will be retightened to the correct specifications.

The actual repair will require approximately 30 minutes; however additional time may be required depending on the BMW center's scheduling and processing. This work will be performed *free of charge* by your Authorized BMW Center.

Other Information

If you are no longer the owner of this vehicle, we would appreciate your furnishing us with the name and address of the new owner, using the enclosed postage-paid card.

If you are a lessor of this vehicle, Federal Regulations require you to forward this notice to your lessee.

If you have already had this repair performed at your own expense, please see the attachment regarding possible eligibility for reimbursement.

Should you have any questions about this campaign, please contact your Authorized BMW Center.

Again, we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

We appreciate your confidence in our product, and we wish to do everything we can to retain your confidence. Should you need additional assistance, you may contact BMW Customer Relations and Services at 1-800-831-1117, or through our website at www.bmwusa.com.

If the BMW Center is unable to remedy the defect without charge or within a reasonable period of time, you may notify the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh St., S.W., Washington, DC 20590, call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC

TREAD ACT CUSTOMER REIMBURSEMENT PLAN
(BMW of North America, LLC)

If you have paid for the repair described in the attached letter, and you would like to be considered for reimbursement, please contact your authorized BMW center. Expenses from repair facilities outside of the BMW center network will be considered; however, the procedure must meet BMW standards and use BMW Genuine Parts.

Your authorized BMW center will request a copy of your owner notification letter, as well as, a copy of your previously paid invoice, and then inspect the vehicle (if it is still in your possession) prior to submitting a claim on your behalf to BMW of North America, LLC for reimbursement.

Please note the following:

- Only a repair that is the subject of this safety recall is reimbursable. Consequential expenses such as towing, rental, accommodations, damage repairs, etc will not be reimbursed.
- When BMW Genuine Parts are used, the Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) will be considered as the guideline for reasonable charges.
- Expenses for repairs performed more than 10 days after the date of the last owner notification letter sent by BMW are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Taxes and hazardous waste disposal, where previously paid, are eligible for reimbursement.
- BMW will not reimburse for prior repairs that did not utilize BMW Genuine Parts.

We anticipate that your authorized BMW center will be able to answer any questions that you may have regarding your qualifications for reimbursement of a previous repair. If you qualify for such a reimbursement, they will also be able to advise you of the manner in which you could receive reimbursement.

We recommend that your authorized BMW center be your primary contact on this issue; however, our Customer Relations and Services Department may be contacted at 1-800-831-1117 for any special assistance that you may require.

Alternatively, you may submit your request for reimbursement to the following address:

Customer Relations and Services Department
BMW of North America, LLC
P.O. Box 1227
Westwood, NJ 07675-1227

TREAD ACT CUSTOMER REIMBURSEMENT PLAN
(BMW of North America, LLC)

Customer Reimbursement for Safety Related Recall Repairs
Effective with Safety related recalls initiated January 15, 2003

The customer is encouraged to request reimbursement from their authorized BMW center. Alternatively, the customer may submit the request for reimbursement to the following address:

Customer Relations and Services Department
BMW of North America, LLC
P.O. Box 1227
Westwood, NJ 07675-1227

In all cases:

- Repair expenses pertaining to the subject of the safety recall are reimbursable, not consequential expenses such as towing, rental, accommodations, damage repairs, etc.
- Expenses from repair facilities outside of the BMW center network will be considered; however, the procedure must meet BMW standards and use BMW Genuine Parts.
- When BMW Genuine Parts are used, the Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price (MSRP) will be considered as the guideline for reasonable charges.
- Expenses for repairs performed more than 10 days after the date of the last owner notification letter sent by BMW are not eligible for reimbursement.
- Taxes and hazardous waste disposal, where previously paid, are eligible for reimbursement.
- BMW will not reimburse for prior repairs that did not utilize BMW Genuine Parts.

The authorized BMW center will request a copy of the owner notification letter, as well as, a copy of the owner's previously paid invoice, and then inspect the vehicle (if still in the possession of the invoice holder) to determine the scope and quality of the previous repair. Claims shall be processed within 60 days of receipt.