

SI B63 06 11
Model Year 2002 to 2005 BMW 3 Series Sedan Vehicles (E46)
Rear Lights in the Body Side Panel
FAQs

Q1. Which models are affected by this Recall?

Affected vehicles are Model Year 2002 to 2005 BMW 3 Series (E46) Sedans:

- Produced between September 1, 2001, and March 1, 2005.

Q2. What is the specific problem?

The issue involves the portion of the rear lamp located in the vehicle's body side panel. The other portion of the rear tail lamp, located in the vehicle's trunk panel, is not affected.

Due to material specification and environmental factors, over time one or more of the lights in the rear tail lamp may stop functioning. The tail light, brake light and/or turn signal may not function.

Q3. How did BMW become aware of the problem?

BMW became aware of the problem through its quality control procedures.

Q4. Why are the other models not affected?

Due to technical specifications, only Model Year 2002 to 2005 BMW 3 Series (E46) Sedan vehicles are affected.

Q5. Can the driver become aware of the problem?

Yes. If the vehicle is experiencing this condition, a number of visual and audible warnings is provided.

If the condition involves the tail lamp and/or brake lamp, a corresponding "warning symbol" will appear in the message display located in the vehicle's instrument cluster "message display" screen.

If the condition involves the turn signal lamp, the affected instrument cluster turn signal symbol (arrow and accompanying acoustic generator) flashes and sounds at twice its normal frequency.

In addition, each time the vehicle is started, an audible warning chime is sounded.

Q6. Which corrective measures will be taken?

An additional/replacement electrical ground circuit connection is installed from the rear tail light bulb socket circuit board to the ground wire located in the rear tail lamp wire harness connector.

After installing the ground connection, the lamps must be rechecked for proper functionality. If the lights are still not operating properly, the repair procedure may also require replacement of the tail lamp's "8-pin" harness connector housing and pins.

Note: Replacement of bulbs (correct and incorrect type) or the bulb socket housing/circuit board is **NOT** included as part of the Recall and repair procedure.

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Q7. Did BMW already address this problem in the field?

Yes. In 2006, BMW issued a Service Information bulletin which initially provided this repair procedure.

Q8. Is BMW aware of any accidents or injuries associated with the Recall?

No.

Q9. Can customers continue to drive their vehicles?

Yes, but we recommend that owners of affected vehicles, who will receive a letter asking them to schedule an appointment with their authorized BMW center, do so immediately.

Should they need BMW Roadside Assistance, they can be reached at 1-800-332-4269.

Important note: If the customer is not the only driver of an affected vehicle, please ensure all other drivers are advised of this important information.

Q10. How will customers be informed of the Recall?

Owners of affected vehicles will receive a letter via First Class mail asking them to schedule an appointment with their authorized BMW center.

Q11. How long will the repair take?

This repair may take up to one hour; however, additional time may be required, depending upon the center's workshop scheduling situation.

The repair outlined in the Service Information bulletin will be performed free of charge by an authorized BMW center.

Q12. Does the customer have to wait for the Recall letter in order to have the Recall performed?

Yes. BMW is in the process of implementing the Recall campaign to ensure that the necessary parts are available for the authorized BMW centers prior to sending out the owner notification letters.