



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

May 28, 2015

Mr. Francis Dance  
Safety Integrity and Recall Manager  
BMW of North America, LLC  
P.O. Box 1227  
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

NVS-215SM  
15V-318

**Subject:** Driver Frontal Air Bag Inflator May Rupture

Dear Mr. Dance:

This letter serves to acknowledge BMW of North America, LLC's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

BMW/325CI/2002-2006  
BMW/325I/2002-2006  
BMW/325XI/2002-2005  
BMW/330CI/2002-2006  
BMW/330I/2002-2006  
BMW/330XI/2002-2005  
BMW/525I/2002-2003  
BMW/530I/2002-2003  
BMW/540I/2002-2003  
BMW/M3/2002-2006  
BMW/M5/2002-2003  
BMW/X5/2003-2004

**Mfr's Report Date:** May 27, 2015

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 15V-318

**Components:**

AIR BAGS:FRONTAL:DRIVER SIDE INFLATOR MODULE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 420,661

**Problem Description:**

BMW of North America, LLC (BMW) is recalling certain model year 2002-2005 325i, 325xi, 330i, and 330xi Sedans, and 325xi and 325i Sportswagons, 2002-2006 330Ci, 325Ci, and M3 Convertibles and 325i, 330i, and M3 Coupes, 2002-2003 M5, 540i, 525i Sedan, and 530i Sedans, and 540i and 525i Sportswagons, and 2003-2004 X5 3.0i and 4.4i Sports Activity Vehicles. Please note that the 5-series and X5 vehicles are only included if they are equipped with the optional sports steering wheel. The affected vehicles are equipped with a dual-stage driver frontal air bag that may be susceptible to moisture intrusion which, over time, could cause the inflator to rupture.

**Consequence:**

In the event of a crash necessitating deployment of the driver's frontal air bag, the inflator could rupture with metal fragments striking and potentially seriously injuring the driver or other occupants.

**Remedy:**

BMW will notify owners, and dealers will replace the front driver air bag module, free of charge. The manufacturer has not yet provided a notification schedule. Owners may contact BMW customer service at 1-800-525-7417. Note: This recall supersedes recall 14V38 in its entirety. Additionally, vehicles that have had their driver side frontal air bag replaced previously as part of a recall remedy need to have their air bag replaced under this recall as well.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

This recall was subject of an engineering analysis, EA15-001, conducted by the Office of Defects Investigation.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

You are required to provide an estimated date including month, day, and year, when you will send notifications to owners, dealers, and distributors as soon as it becomes available. Please be reminded that it is required that owners be notified of a safety defect in their vehicles within 60 days of a manufacturer's notification to NHTSA of a safety defect in those vehicles.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Sarah Mcshane who may be reached by phone at 202-366-7401, or by email at [sarah.mcshane@dot.gov](mailto:sarah.mcshane@dot.gov) or through the office email at [rmd.odi@dot.gov](mailto:rmd.odi@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement