

15V-205 Safety Recall
Model Year 2005-2006 MINI Cooper and MINI Cooper S
Model Year 2005-2008 MINI Cooper and Cooper S Convertible
Front Passenger Seat Occupancy Detection Mat Sensor

Q1. Which models are affected by this Recall?

Affected are certain Model Year 2005-2006 MINI Cooper and Cooper S vehicles produced between January 2005 and November 2006, as well as Model Year 2005-2008 MINI Cooper and Cooper S Convertibles produced between January 2005 and July 2008.

Q2. How many vehicles in the US are affected?

The number of vehicles affected in the US is approximately 91,800.

Q3. What is the specific issue involving this Recall?

This Recall involves the front passenger seat occupancy detection mat. On approximately 91,800 vehicles, the front passenger seat occupancy detection mat sensor may not function correctly, due to several manufacturing, installation and field exposure issues.

Q4. What can happen as a result of this issue?

In the event of a severe crash, the front passenger air bag may not activate when the seat is occupied, increasing the risk of injury.

Q5. Why are other vehicles not affected?

Other vehicles have a different front passenger seat occupancy detection system. Only USA and Canada models have this specific system installed; hence MINIs in other markets are not affected.

Q6. Can I become aware of this issue if it is occurring?

Yes. If a potential error in the seat occupation detection mat is detected, the yellow "passenger air bag off light" (POL) in the overhead console and the red "air bag warning light" (AWL) in the instrument cluster will illuminate continuously or intermittently. The passenger air bag off light should be illuminated only when the seat is occupied by a child in a child seat.

Q7. What corrective measures will be taken?

The front passenger seat occupancy detection mat will be replaced.

Q8. How did MINI become aware of this issue?

MINI became aware of this issue from our quality control procedures.

Q9. Are you aware of any accidents or injuries associated with the Recall?

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We are aware of one minor passenger injury possibly related to this issue.

Q10. Can I continue to drive my vehicle?

If the air bag warning light is not illuminated continuously or intermittently while driving, and the passenger air bag off light is illuminated only when a child seat is installed, the seat occupation detection mat is working correctly in your MINI. In this case, you can continue to drive your car, but should have the repair performed as soon as possible after you receive a letter from MINI.

However, if the air bag warning light and the passenger air bag off-light are illuminated continuously or intermittently, please be aware that the front passenger air bag may have been deactivated automatically. No one should occupy the front passenger seat until the repair has been performed.

If you are not the only driver of this vehicle, please advise all other drivers of this important information.

Q11. How will I be informed of the Recall?

You will receive a letter via First Class mail asking you to schedule an appointment with an authorized MINI dealer.

Q12. How will the Recall be performed?

The front passenger seat occupancy detection mat will be replaced. This mat is underneath the seat covering, which will not be replaced.

Q13. How long will the update take?

The update may take approximately two hours; however, additional time may be required depending upon the MINI dealer's schedule and the determined corrective measure. The update will be performed free of charge by your authorized MINI dealer.

Q14. How many vehicles in the US have experienced this issue?

We are not aware of the quantity of vehicles affected by this condition.

Q15. When will I receive my owner notification letter?

You should receive your letter in May 2015 asking you to have the repair performed.

Q16. Do I have to wait for my Recall letter in order to have the update performed?

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Yes. We are in the process of implementing the Recall Campaign to ensure that the necessary parts and procedures are at the authorized MINI dealers prior to requesting that you have the repair performed.

Q17. I see the “TREAD Act Customer Reimbursement Plan” attached to my letter. Can you explain what that is about? Am I eligible for reimbursement?

If you have already had this repair performed at your own expense, you may be eligible for reimbursement of certain expenses that you incurred.