

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

17V-138

Manufacturer Name : BMW of North America, LLC**Submission Date :** MAR 02, 2017**NHTSA Recall No. :** 17V-138**Manufacturer Recall No. :** NR**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : BMW of North America, LLC

Address : P.O. Box 1227

Westwood NJ 07675-1227

Company phone : 18005257417

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 121,737

Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2011-2013 BMW X5 xDrive35i, X5 xDrive50i, X5 M

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Approximately 85,840 vehicles have been equipped with a front driveshaft whose universal joint contains a seal that may have been manufactured out-of-specification.

Production Dates : NOV 22, 2010 - APR 22, 2013

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2011-2013 BMW X5 xDrive35d

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : DIESEL

Descriptive Information : Approximately 20,777 vehicles have been equipped with a front driveshaft whose universal joint contains a seal that may have been manufactured out-of-specification.

Production Dates : NOV 22, 2010 - APR 22, 2013

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2011-2014 BMW X6 xDrive35i, X6 xDrive50i, X6 M

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : GAS

Descriptive Information : Approximately 15,095 vehicles have been equipped with a front driveshaft whose universal joint contains a seal that may have been manufactured out-of-specification.

Production Dates : NOV 22, 2010 - APR 22, 2013

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

 Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2011-2011 BMW X6 ActiveHybrid

Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES

Body Style : SUV

Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC

Descriptive Information : Approximately 25 vehicles have been equipped with a front driveshaft whose universal joint contains a seal that may have been manufactured out-of-specification.

Production Dates : JAN 03, 2011 - SEP 22, 2011

VIN Range 1 : Begin :

NR

End : NR

Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : This is an amendment to BMW's May 13, 2016 report. This safety recall involves the front driveshaft. On approximately 121,737 vehicles, the contact surface between the spider and the seal of the front driveshaft's universal joint may be out-of-specification. In rare cases, water and/or dirt may enter the universal joint and, over time, lead to excessive wear and/or corrosion resulting in noise or vibration. After prolonged driving under such conditions, the universal joint may eventually break.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Should the universal joint break, the drive torque is no longer transmitted to the front wheels. However, the rear drivetrain remains operational and transmits all drive torque to the rear axle comparable to rear wheel drive BMW vehicles. In an extreme case, after prolonged operation of the vehicle with a broken universal joint, damage could occur to adjacent components, which, under certain exceptional circumstances, could eventually render the vehicle inoperative. Depending on traffic conditions and the driver reactions, this could increase the risk of a collision.

Description of the Cause : A manufacturing variation occurred in the critical contour area of the sealing ring contact face.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : The driver will initially be alerted by noise from the area of the front drivetrain. Over time, this noise will increase along with vibration.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : IFA Rotorion North America, LLC

Address : 9770 Patriot Blvd. Suite 100

Ladson SOUTH CAROLINA 29456

Country : United States

Chronology :

Please refer to BMW's May 13, 2016 Part 573 report assigned NHTSA Recall ID 16V-311.

Since May 2016, BMW continued to monitor the field, and noticed an increase in the number of warranty claims involving cases where vehicle components adjacent to the front driveshaft were damaged, in some cases eventually rendering the vehicle inoperative. Analyses were conducted to determine if the increase in warranty claims was due to factors other than the front driveshaft's universal joint sealing system, i.e., factors which could result in the susceptibility for excessive wear and/or corrosion to occur to the driveshaft's universal joint.

Starting in mid-2016, field parts were returned for analysis. The driveshaft, its sealing system, bearings, and damage to broken parts were analyzed. Vehicle specific parameters, such as age and mileage, mass, engine power and torque, and load distribution front/rear, were examined. Vehicle operating and environmental conditions, such as driving behavior, dirt contamination / road conditions, were also examined. These efforts continued through February 2017.

In August 2016, as well as in October, November and December, engineering reviews were conducted with the supplier pertaining to product design and production processes to determine root cause.

The analyses led to the conclusion that the front driveshaft sealing system of vehicles produced from December 2010 onwards were similarly affected as those identified in BMW's May 13, 2016 report.

Production and manufacturing records were examined in order to determine the quantity and production date range of potentially affected vehicles.

On February 23, 2017, BMW decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall for additional vehicles. BMW has not received any reports, nor is BMW otherwise aware, of any injuries or fatalities related to this issue.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : The front driveshaft will be replaced.

How Remedy Component Differs
from Recalled Component :

Identify How/When Recall Condition
was Corrected in Production :

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : NR

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 03, 2017 - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : APR 24, 2017 - NR

* NR - Not Reported