

BMW Group

January 27, 2003

RECEIVED
NVS-215

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

2003 FEB -4 P 5:36

OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

03V-032 ① of ④

RE: Recall Campaign - Safety Belt Tensioner
2002 BMW X5 & 2003 BMW Z4

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

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.

1. Manufacturer: Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW AG)

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

2. Make: BMW

<u>Model Year/Model</u>	<u>Inclusive dates of manufacture</u>
2002 / X5 & 2003 / Z4	06/20/2002 - 09/04/2002

3. The number of vehicles affected is approximately 2,520 X5 & 115 Z4 models.

4. The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is approximately 90%.

5. The potential defect involves the safety belt tensioner and buckle subassembly produced in the period 06/19/2002 through 06/28/2002. The cramping connection of the safety belt buckle to the steel rope of the tensioner does not meet BMW specifications, and in severe frontal crashes could detach.

The name, business address, telephone number, and contact person of the supplier of the safety belt tensioner subassembly are:

TRW
4505 West 26 Mile Rd.
Washington, MI 48094

Company
BMW of North America, LLC

BMW Group Company

Mailing address
PO Box 1227
Westwood, NJ
07675-1227

Office address
900 Chestnut Ridge Road
Woodcliff Lake, NJ
07677-7731

Telephone
(201) 307-4000

Fax
(201) 307-4005

Internet
bmwusa.com



Mr. Charlie Steffens
Director, Systems Engineering

03V-032 ② of ④

Phone: (588) 781-7458
Fax: (688) 781-7287

6. BMW initially became aware of the potential problem during the analysis of a European consumer information crash test in December 2002. Based on subsequent part analyses and investigations, the determination of the range of affected parts and of the range of potentially affected vehicles was established.

BMW has received no reports, nor is BMW otherwise aware of any accidents or injuries related to the defect.
7. Not applicable.
8. BMW will conduct a recall campaign to inspect both front safety belt tensioner and buckle assemblies, and replace any affected parts.

BMW plans to send owner notification letters in February 2003.
9. A copy of the Service Bulletin will be prepared and submitted when available.
10. A draft copy of the owner notification letter is attached.
11. Not applicable.

Sincerely,



Karl-Heinz Ziwicka
General Manager
Environmental Engineering

Attachment

DRAFT

January xx, 2003

03V-032 ③ of ④

Recall Campaign No. 03V-XXX: Safety Belt Tensioner

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 2002 Model Year BMW X5 / 2003 Model Year BMW Z4 vehicles. (Note: Separate letter for each model.) Our records indicate that you are the owner of a potentially affected vehicle.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

The potential defect involves the safety belt tensioner and buckle subassembly. The connection of the safety belt buckle to the steel rope of the tensioner does not meet BMW specifications. In severe frontal crashes this connection can detach.

Your vehicle can still be driven; however, for the safety of the driver and front passenger do not leave this problem unattended.

In severe frontal crashes, if the connection detaches, the protection provided by the safety belt is likely to be impaired, and serious injuries to the driver and/or front passenger could occur that might otherwise be mitigated.

PRECAUTIONS

1. **CONTACT YOUR AUTHORIZED BMW CENTER IMMEDIATELY TO HAVE THE NECESSARY REPAIR PERFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
2. **If you do not have possession of this vehicle, please advise its primary driver of this important information.**

DESCRIPTION OF REPAIR

The repair will consist of inspecting both front safety belt tensioner and buckle assemblies, and if necessary, replacing these parts.

The repair will require approximately 2 hours. This work will be performed *free of charge* by your Authorized BMW SAV (BMW) center. Additional time may be required depending on the BMW SAV (BMW) center's scheduling and processing.

OTHER INFORMATION

Company
BMW of North America, LLC
BMW Group Company

Mailing address
PO Box 1227
Westwood, NJ
07675-1227

Office address
900 Chestnut Ridge Road
Woodcliff Lakes, NJ
07677-7731

Telephone
(201) 307-4000

Fax
(201) 307-4095

Internet
bmwusa.com

03V-032 ④ or ④

If you are no longer the owner of this vehicle, we would appreciate you 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, you must forward this notice to your lessee.

Should you have any questions about this campaign, please contact your Authorized BMW SAV (BMW) center.

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 at 1-800-831-1117.

If the BMW SAV (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, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC