



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: DP 09-002
 Prompted By: Mark Peters, Petitioner
 Date Opened: 04/08/2009 Date Closed : 08/06/2009
 Principal Investigator: Ali Motamedamin
 Subject: Rear Lamp Illumination

Manufacturer : BMW of North America, LLC, Bayerische Motoren Werke
 Products: 2002-2005 BMW 3 Series (E46)
 Population: 231,717

Problem Description: Rear lamps are not illuminating due to malfunctioning electrical connections.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	15	880	895
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0

Action The Defect Petition (DP) is granted. ODI will open a Preliminary Evaluation (PE).

Engineer: Ali Motamedamin A.M.

Date: 08/06/2009

Div. Chief: D. Scott Yon

Date: 08/06/2009

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/06/2009

Summary In March 2009, the Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) received a petition from Mr. Mark Peters requesting an investigation of rear lamp failure in model year 2002-2005 BMW 3-Series vehicles. An information request letter was sent to BMW in April 2009, and ODI received BMW's response in June 2009.

The tail lamp assembly contains lighting for the brake lamps, tail lamps, and turn signals. A technical service bulletin (TSB) was issued by BMW in January of 2007 instructing service technicians to examine an 8 pin electrical connector for heat-related damage and to incorporate additional ground wiring to the connector. Complainants have alleged that significant thermal damage to the connector and associated ground wiring has occurred. This condition can result in intermittent or total loss of all lighting (brake, tail, and turn signal) for the effected rear lamp assembly. ODI will open a Preliminary Evaluation to further examine this issue including further evaluating BMW complaints and related warranty data.