



February 15, 2000

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED
FEB 17 AM 8:09
OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

00V-048 (01)

**RE: Recall Campaign – Brake Lamp Switch
2000 BMW 323i, 328i, 528i, 528iT, 540i, 540iT, M5, 740i, 740iL, 750iL**

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 573.5 (c) of the above, we submit the following information:

1. **Manufacturer:** Bayerische Motoren Werke AG (BMW AG)
Munich, Germany

Designated Agent: BMW of North America, Inc.
Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey 07675

2. **Make:** BMW

<u>Model Year/Model</u>	<u>Inclusive dates of manufacture</u>
2000 323i, 328i, 528i, 528iT, 540i, 540iT, M5, 740i, 740iL, 750iL	09/11/99 to 10/28/99

3. The number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is approximately 17,700.

4. The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is less than 0.1%.

5. The potential defect involves the brake lamp switch of the subject vehicles. The switch is an electronic device, containing a capacitor and other electronic components.

During the switch supplier's manufacturing process, the capacitor in a limited production range of switches may have been mechanically damaged such that its housing may have cracked. In such a case, the operating voltage applied to the switch, combined with high humidity conditions, could result in overheating

Address
BMW Plaza
Montvale, NJ 07645-1888

Telephone
(201) 679-2100

Facsimile
(201) 782-0784



of the capacitor and switch housing, and eventual deformation of the switch housing. As a result, a short circuit or an open circuit could occur in the switch.

Depending on whether an open or short circuit occurred, the switch could remain either in the "brake lamps off" position or in the "brake lamps on" position, regardless of brake pedal operation. If the switch remains in the "off" position, the brake lamps will be rendered inoperative. Conversely, if the switch remains in the "on" position, the brake lamps will be continuously illuminated when the ignition switch is in the "on" position.

The name, address and telephone number of the brake lamp switch supplier are as follows:

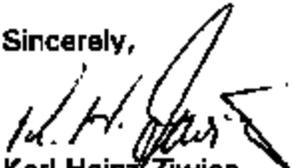
TYCO Electronics EC
Gustav Heinemannstrasse 212
81730 Munich
Germany
Tel.: 011 49 89 63657133

6. BMW initially became aware of this potential problem in mid-October 1999, as a result of a small number of field reports. Subsequent investigation and analysis by the supplier and BMW resulted in identification of the potential occurrence and consequences, as well as determination of the range of affected vehicles.

BMW has received no reports, nor is BMW otherwise aware of any accidents or injuries resulting from this potential defect.

7. Not applicable.
8. BMW will conduct a recall campaign to remedy the defect in the affected vehicles. The remedy will consist of replacing the existing brake lamp switch with an improved switch. BMW expects to begin and complete the sending of notifications to owners in March 2000.
9. A draft copy of the owner notification letter is attached. The Service-Information bulletin informing the dealers of the campaign will be prepared and forwarded when available.

Sincerely,


Karl-Heinz Ziwick
General Manager
Environmental Engineering

Attachment

DRAFT

00V-048 (03)

March 2000

Recall Campaign No. 00V-XXX, Brake Lamp Switch

Dear BMW Owner/Lessee:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

BMW AG has determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain model year 2000 BMW 323i, 328i, 528i, 528iT, 540i, 540iT, M5, 740i, 740iL, and 750iL vehicles. Our records indicate that you are the owner or lessee of a potentially affected vehicle.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

The brake lamps of your vehicle are controlled by a switch activated by movement of the brake pedal. This switch could fail internally, causing it to remain either in the "brake lamps off" position or in the "brake lamps on" position. If this happens, the brake lamps either will not operate or will be continuously illuminated, regardless of brake pedal position.

DESCRIPTION OF INSPECTION / REPAIR

The repair will consist of inspecting and, if necessary, replacing the existing brake lamp switch with an improved switch.

This repair will require approximately one hour and will be performed free of charge by your Authorized BMW center. Additional time may be required depending on the BMW center's scheduling and processing.

PRECAUTIONS

1. CONTACT YOUR AUTHORIZED BMW CENTER IMMEDIATELY TO

HAVE THE NECESSARY REPAIR PERFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. Before the repair, brake lamp operation should be checked with the vehicle stationary by turning the key to position 2 ("ignition" or "on") and depressing the brake pedal. An observer facing the rear of the vehicle can determine if the brake lamps are working properly. If the brake lamps are inoperative or continuously lit, the vehicle should not be driven. Arrangements should be made for pickup and repair.
3. If the inoperative or continuously-lit brake lamps are ignored and the vehicle is driven, a crash involving another vehicle (or vehicles) could occur without prior warning, depending on environmental and traffic conditions.
4. If you are not the sole driver of your car, please advise all other drivers of these necessary precautions.

OTHER INFORMATION

If the vehicle to which this notice applies has been leased and you are the lessor, you MUST send a copy of this notice to the lessee.

If you no longer own this vehicle, we would appreciate your furnishing us with the name and address of the new owner, using the enclosed postage-paid card.

Should you have any questions about this campaign, please contact your Authorized 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 center is unable to remedy the defect without charge or within a reasonable period of time, you may notify the Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Washington, DC 20590, or call the toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-800-424-9393 (Washington, DC area residents may call 202-366-0123).

BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, INC.