

# BMW Group

September 21, 2001

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

01V-206.003① of ②

RE: Recall Campaign 01V-206  
Engine Auxiliary/Cooling Fan  
Amendment to Part 573 Report dated June 15, 2001, as amended July 16, 2001

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

BMW is amending our Part 573 report for the subject campaign. The purpose of this amendment is to revise the remedy for this campaign. Due to field problems involving a small number of the current replacement parts, a new version fan will be utilized as the repair part on all affected vehicles in this campaign.

As a result, the population of potentially affected vehicles will be increased. An additional 26,052 vehicles will be included in our recall campaign. BMW's Part 573 report, as amended July 16, 2001 (copies attached), is further amended as follows:

Item 2:

The inclusive dates of manufacture for the following models are expanded as follows:

2001 BMW 3-series with man. trans.	02/01/01 - 06/14/01 (unchanged)
2001 BMW 5-series	01/16/01 - 08/31/01 (was 01/18/01 - 06/13/01)
2001 BMW X5	12/18/00 - 09/05/01 (was 12/18/00 - 06/15/01)
2001 BMW Z8	01/08/01 - 09/05/01 (was 01/01/01 - 05/31/01)
2001 BMW 7-series	11/01/00 - 07/27/01 (was 11/01/00 - 01/08/01)

Item 3:

The number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is increased by 26,052 units. The total number of potentially affected vehicles is now 50,417 + 26,052 = 76,469.

Item 6:

BMW has learned through recent field reports that a small number of the current replacement fans have experienced failures. Analysis of these parts indicates that failures in the electronic control unit can still occur due to miscommutation caused by Hall sensor positioning, as well as overloading of the power transistors.

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BMW of North America, LLC

BMW Group Company

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As a result, BMW has decided to reissue and expand this recall campaign utilizing an upgraded part on all affected vehicles. The upgraded fan contains a more sensitive Hall sensor to avoid miscommutation, new MOSFETs (power transistors) with increased current-carrying capacity and additional circuitry and software to detect failures and shut down the system should such failures occur. With these modifications, no overloading of the circuitry can occur that could lead to a thermal event involving the fan control unit.

Item 8:

BMW will reissue and expand recall campaign 01V-206 to replace the existing fan on all affected vehicles with an upgraded version. The campaign will include the 50,417 vehicles already subject to the current recall, including those already repaired. An additional 26,052 vehicles originally equipped in production with the fan currently being used as the recall replacement part will be added to the campaign.

BMW expects to begin owner notification on September 28, 2001.

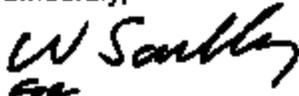
Item 10:

Copies of draft owner notification letters are attached.

Item 12:

The total number of affected vehicles worldwide is increased by 60,000 units to approximately 231,000 vehicles.

Sincerely,



*KH*  
Karl-Heinz Ziwick  
General Manager  
Environmental Engineering

Attachments

# DRAFT – Previously Recalled Vehicles

Date

**Recall Campaign No. 01V-206, ENGINE AUXILIARY/COOLING FAN**

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 2001 Model Year vehicles. Our records indicate that you are the owner of a potentially affected vehicle.

You may already have received a recall notice for this campaign and may also have had the repair performed. Please note that this campaign is being reissued on all affected vehicles to incorporate an updated repair part.

**THIS MEANS THAT EVEN IF YOUR VEHICLE HAS ALREADY BEEN REPAIRED FOR THIS PROBLEM, IT IS INVOLVED IN THIS REISSUED RECALL. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR BMW CENTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE TO HAVE THE UPDATED REPAIR PART INSTALLED.**

## DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

The potential defect involves the engine auxiliary/cooling fan of your vehicle.

Fan operation is electronically controlled. It is possible for the electrical circuitry in the fan control unit to overheat and fail, causing the fan to stop operating. If this were to occur, engine overheating and subsequent engine damage could result if the warning provided by the coolant temperature gauge were ignored and you continued to drive.

It is also possible in some cases for the failure of the electrical circuitry to cause smoldering. In the extreme case, a fire in the fan control unit, which is mounted on the fan and located in the front of the engine compartment, could occur. This could happen either while the engine is running, or after the ignition has been switched off, since the fan may run for up to 11 minutes after engine shutdown.

## PRECAUTIONS

1. **CONTACT YOUR AUTHORIZED BMW CENTER IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE TO HAVE THE NECESSARY REPAIR PERFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

2. Potential engine overheating will be indicated by the needle in the coolant temperature gauge moving from the approximate middle position to the red zone, and on some models by display of the message "COOLANT TEMPERATURE" in the instrument cluster.

In some cases, an electrical smell, or burning and/or smoke from the front of the vehicle may be noticed.

Should any of these warnings occur, pull off the road to a safe location and switch off the engine. If you notice an electrical smell, or burning and/or smoke from the front of the vehicle, do not open the hood. All occupants should carefully exit the vehicle and move to a location away from traffic. Contact BMW Roadside Assistance at 1-800-332-4289 immediately to have your vehicle brought to the nearest BMW center.

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

#### DESCRIPTION OF REPAIR

The fan will be replaced with an improved version.

Replacement of the fan will take approximately one to three hours, depending on the vehicle model, and will be performed *free of charge* by your Authorized BMW center. Additional time may be required depending on the center's scheduling and processing. Call your Authorized BMW center for an appointment.

#### OTHER INFORMATION

If you are no longer the owner of 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 1-888-327-4236.

BMW OF NORTH AMERICA, LLC

# DRAFT – Additional Vehicles and Vehicles Not Yet Recalled

Date

Recall Campaign No. 01V-206, ENGINE AUXILIARY/COOLING FAN

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 2001 Model Year vehicles. Our records indicate that you are the owner of a potentially affected vehicle.

## DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

The potential defect involves the engine auxiliary/cooling fan of your vehicle.

Fan operation is electronically controlled. It is possible for the electrical circuitry in the fan control unit to overheat and fail, causing the fan to stop operating. If this were to occur, engine overheating and subsequent engine damage could result if the warning provided by the coolant temperature gauge were ignored and you continued to drive.

It is also possible in some cases for the failure of the electrical circuitry to cause smoldering. In the extreme case, a fire in the fan control unit, which is mounted on the fan and located in the front of the engine compartment, could occur. This could happen either while the engine is running, or after the ignition has been switched off, since the fan may run for up to 11 minutes after engine shutdown.

## PRECAUTIONS

1. CONTACT YOUR AUTHORIZED BMW CENTER IMMEDIATELY TO ARRANGE TO HAVE THE NECESSARY REPAIR PERFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
2. Potential engine overheating will be indicated by the needle in the coolant temperature gauge moving from the approximate middle position to the red

zone, and on some models by display of the message "COOLANT TEMPERATURE" in the Instrument cluster.

In some cases, an electrical smell, or burning and/or smoke from the front of the vehicle may be noticed.

Should any of these warnings occur, pull off the road to a safe location and smoke from the front of the vehicle, do not open the hood. All occupants should carefully exit the vehicle and move to a location away from traffic. Contact BMW Roadside Assistance at 1-800-332-4269 immediately to have your vehicle brought to the nearest BMW center.

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

#### **DESCRIPTION OF REPAIR**

The fan will be replaced with an improved version.

Replacement of the fan will take approximately one to three hours, depending on the vehicle model, and will be performed *free of charge* by your Authorized BMW center. Additional time may be required depending on the center's scheduling and processing. Call your Authorized BMW center for an appointment.

#### **OTHER INFORMATION**

If you are no longer the owner of 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 1-888-327-4238.

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