# BMW Group

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OFFICE
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

June 15, 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 ①
(01V-206.001)

RE: Recall Campaign – Engine Auxiliary/Cooling Fan
2001 BMW 3-series with manual transmission, 7-series, X5, Z8

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)

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

2.

| Model Year/Make/Model | Inclusive dates of manufacture |
|---|---|
| 2001 BMW 3-series with man. trans. | 02/01/01 - 04/30/01 |
| 2001 BMW 7-series | 11/01/00 - 01/08/01 |
| 2001 BMW X5 | 12/18/00 - 04/30/01 |
| 2001 BMW Z8 | 01/01/01 - 04/30/01 |

3. The number of vehicles potentially containing the defect is 22,435.

4. The percentage of vehicles estimated to actually contain the defect is less than 5%.

5. The potential defect involves the engine auxiliary/cooling fan of the affected vehicles and is limited to the Generation II fan introduced into vehicle production between November 2000 and February 2001, depending on model/carline.

   On the affected models, fan operation, including variable speed, is electronically controlled. Miscommutation of the fan motor can cause the electrical circuitry of the fan control unit to overload and fail, causing the fan to stop operating.

   If this were to occur, engine overheating and subsequent engine damage could result if vehicle operation continued and the warning provided by the coolant temperature gauge were ignored.

   In addition, it is possible in some cases for the failure of the electrical circuitry to cause smoldering, or 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. This could

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occur 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.

The fan manufacturer is:

01V-206 ②

Siemens Canada Limited
Automotive Systems
1020 Adelaide Street South
London, ON, Canada N6E 1R6
1-519-680-5787

6. BMW initially became aware of this potential problem in April 2001, when the first field reports of the problem were received. Subsequent investigation and analysis resulted in identification of the potential 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 replace the fan with an updated version not susceptible to overloading of the electrical circuitry.

   Owner notification will be conducted on a staggered basis, due to parts supply considerations. BMW expects to begin owner notification in July 2001.

9. A draft copy of the Service information bulletin will be submitted when available.

10. A draft copy of the owner notification letter is attached.

11. Not applicable.

12. This campaign affects certain BMW vehicles in other markets, and is identical, in terms of car lines, inclusive dates of manufacture, nature of defect, chronology of principal events leading to defect determination, and remedy, to the campaign being initiated in the United States. The total number of affected vehicles worldwide is approximately 75,000.

Sincerely,

Karl-Heinz Ziwica
General Manager
Environmental Engineering

Attachment

# DRAFT

01V-206 ③

July 2001

Recall Campaign No. 01V-XXX, 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, including variable speed, 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 you continued to drive and the warning provided by the coolant temperature gauge were ignored.

In addition, it is 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 1-800-332-4269 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 hour 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