



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

June 7, 2021

Ms. Helen Riehle  
Safety Integrity and Recall Manager  
BMW of North America, LLC  
300 Chestnut Ridge Road  
Woodcliff Lake, NJ 07677

NEF-107DM  
21V-401

**Subject:** Air Bag Inflator May Explode or Underinflate Bag

Dear Ms. Riehle:

This letter serves to acknowledge BMW of North America, LLC's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

BMW/3 SERIES/1999-2001  
BMW/323CI/2000-2001  
BMW/323I/1999-2001  
BMW/325CI/2000-2001  
BMW/328CI/2000-2001  
BMW/328I/1999-2001  
BMW/330CI/2000-2001  
BMW/330I/1999-2001  
BMW/330XI/1999-2001

**Mfr's Report Date:** May 27, 2021

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 21V-401

**Components:**

AIR BAGS:FRONTAL:DRIVER SIDE:INFLATOR MODULE

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 4,511

**Problem Description:**

BMW of North America, LLC (BMW) is recalling certain 2000-2001 BMW 3 Series (323Ci, 325Ci, 328Ci and 330Ci), 1999-2001 323i, 328i, 330i, 330xi, and 2000 323i, 328i stationwagon vehicles equipped with Non-Azide Driver air bag Inflators (NADI) manufactured by Takata. These vehicles are equipped with driver-side air bag inflators that were previously inspected, but not replaced under recall numbers 19V-851, 19V852, or 19V-853. Due to a manufacturing issue, the NADI inflator may absorb moisture, causing the inflator to explode or the air bag cushion to underinflate.

**Consequence:**

The inflator could explode during air bag deployment, resulting in metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants. An underinflated air bag may not properly protect the occupant. These scenarios increase the risk of serious injury or death.



**Remedy:**

Dealers will replace the driver-side air bag inflator with a newly designed inflator, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed July 19, 2021. Owners may contact BMW customer service at 1-800-525-7417.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

BMW of North America, LLC's contact for this recall will be DeMara Magruder who may be reached by email at [demara.magruder@dot.gov](mailto:demara.magruder@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement