



This Service Information bulletin supersedes S.I. B72 03 02 **dated October 2002.**

PERFORM THE PROCEDURE OUTLINED IN THIS SERVICE INFORMATION ON ALL AFFECTED VEHICLES BEFORE CUSTOMER DELIVERY OR THE NEXT TIME THEY ARE IN THE SHOP FOR MAINTENANCE OR REPAIRS.

Under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, as amended, if there has been a recall campaign, dealers must assure that all new vehicles and new items of replacement equipment are free of safety defects and comply with all applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards at the time of delivery to the consumer. This means that dealers may not deliver new motor vehicles or new items of replacement equipment to consumers unless the safety defect or noncompliance has been remedied before delivery.

NEW designates changes to this revision

SUBJECT

Recall Campaign 02V-223: Recode Airbag Control Unit

NEW Model

E46 (3 Series) 323i and 328i

SITUATION

The software in the airbag control unit may not always reliably distinguish between accident situations and driving over deep potholes or contacting curbs at excessive speeds. Thus, in exceptional cases, the side airbag system may trigger unexpectedly. Tire pressures that are too low will increase the likelihood of the occurrence of this fault.

AFFECTED VEHICLES

NEW This Recall Campaign involves certain 1999 and 2000 Model Year E46 (3 Series) vehicles which were produced from April 8, 1999 to August 31, 1999.

In order to determine if a specific vehicle is affected by this Recall Campaign, it will be necessary to utilize the "Service Menu" of the DCS (Dealer Communication System). Based on the response of the system, either proceed with the corrective action or take no further action.

The Chassis Number Ranges listed below are **only** for informational purposes and are not to be considered as the only deciding factor.

Model	Chassis Number Range
E46	CA83791 – CA87448
	CD56510 – CD57601
	EJ40000 – EJ41112

FP61747 – FP69371

FR10453 – FR16799

JR55001 – JR57644

KC61660 – KC67210

KG09851 – KG17709

PROCEDURE

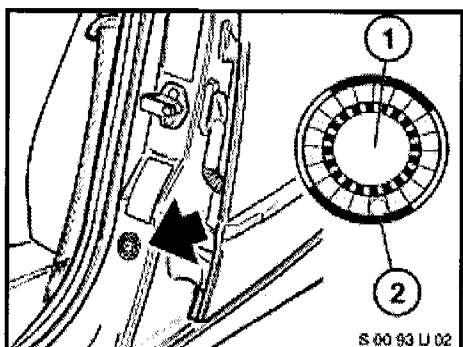
Recode the airbag control unit using DISPlus/GT1 loaded with **DIS CD V31.0 "1st update", or later**. To check the version loaded in DISPlus/GT1, from the DIS "Start" screen, press "Diagnosis", press "Services" and press "Version". The appearing screen has to show "**Codierung C 31.1**" or later.

1. Connect the DISPlus/GT1.
2. Switch on the ignition.
3. Select "ZCS/FA CODING".
4. Select "E46 Series".
5. Select "Recoding".

Note: In a few isolated cases, it is possible that the diagnosis system is unable to read off the vehicle identification number from the instrument cluster. This will cause the fault warning "Coding data incomplete or faulty. CoapiRead FGNr Error code: 2062". In such cases, perform a battery reset, then restart the coding process.

6. Select "Airbag".
7. Select "Code airbag control unit" and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the coding process.

LABEL INSTRUCTIONS



This Service Action has been assigned code number **342**. After the vehicle has been checked, and corrected if necessary, obtain a label (SD 92-205) and:

- a. emboss your BMW dealer warranty number in the middle of the label (1);
- b. punch out code number **342** printed on the label and,
- c. affix the label to the **B** pillar as shown.

If the vehicle already has a label from a previous Service Action/Recall Campaign, affix the new label next to the old one. Do not affix one label on top of another one because a number from an underlying label could appear in the punched-out hole of the new label.

Reimbursement for this Recall will be via Campaign Entry.

Work Package #1: Recode the airbag control unit

Labor Allowance: 5 FRU

view PDF attachment **B720302Letter.**

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September 2002

RECALL CAMPAIGN NO. 02V-223

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 determined that a defect which relates to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 1999 Model Year BMW 323i and 328i 4-door automobiles. Our records indicate that you are the owner of a potentially affected vehicle.

DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT

The side airbag system of your car may deploy in certain non-crash impacts, such as experienced when contacting large potholes or curbs at substantial speed. This could cause the side airbag and Head Protection System to deploy without an actual side crash or impact severe enough to cause significant visible damage to the vehicle.

Unexpected deployment of the side airbag could cause serious injury if the occupant's head is resting near the side airbag.

In addition, the Battery Safety Terminal (BST) would also activate, disconnecting the starter cable from the battery. In this case, vehicle electrical systems would continue to operate and the engine would continue to run but, after the engine is turned off, it could not be restarted.

DESCRIPTION OF REPAIR

The remedy will consist of recalibrating the central airbag control module to reduce the possibility of such a non-crash deployment.

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

PRECAUTIONS

1. CONTACT YOUR AUTHORIZED BMW CENTER TO HAVE THE NECESSARY MODIFICATION PERFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
2. Until the modification is performed, caution should be exercised when encountering rough roads, potholes, curbs, etc. In such conditions, proceed carefully, avoiding excessive speed and severe bumps.
3. All occupants should always be properly restrained (children in child restraint systems appropriate for their age and size; larger children and adults using safety belts) and sitting upright. Never let an occupant's head rest near any side airbag. Do not lean towards or against a door with a side airbag.
4. Refer to the appropriate safety information in your Owner's Manual (see pages 54-60) and the BMW Safety Tips card. Observe the warnings contained in the airbag warning labels on your car.
5. If you are not the sole driver of your car, please advise all other drivers of these possible consequences.

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 return 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

Dealer Number		
Division	UX	Market Area
Region	XX	All Regions
Area	XX	All Areas
PDC		
Country		
State		
Department	M	Center Operator
Title	M	Center Operator
ProductType	A	Auto
Dealer Number		
Division	UX	Market Area
Region	XX	All Regions
Area	XX	All Areas
PDC		
Country		
State		

Scully, William ZU-A-21

From: Quality & Service Engineer [QSENG@dealers.bmwna.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2002 2:50 PM
To: DCS 2000 Server
Subject: Recall to Reprogram E46 Side Airbags-Recall Campaign 02V-223

To:
 BMW Service Managers
 BMW Parts Managers
 BMW Sales Managers

Subject: Recall to Reprogram E46 Side Airbags - Recall Campaign 02V-223

BMW of North America has informed the NHTSA that it will be proceeding with a customer notification to recall certain E46 vehicles. The recall affects approximately 20,500 323i and 328i vehicles produced between 04/1999 and 08/1999. The implementation of the recall will be conducted as soon as the repair procedures are finalized (which should take 4-6 weeks). At that time, a Service Information bulletin will be published, and official customer notification letters will be mailed. The repair will consist of a recalibration of the software in the airbag control module.

In the meantime, we have prepared the following Q&A to help address any customer questions:

Frequently Asked Questions, Recall Campaign 02V-223

Q1 Which models are affected by the recall?

A: E46 3 Series 323i and 328i Sedan produced 04/1999 to 08/1999. These vehicles were not affected by any previous side airbag recall.

Q2 How many vehicles are affected?

A: Approximately 20,500 vehicles in the US.

Q3: Why is this recall being issued?

A: The recall involves the side airbag system of your car. The system may deploy in certain non-crash impacts, such as experienced when contacting large potholes or curbs at substantial speed. This could cause the side airbags and Head Protection Systems of the vehicle to deploy without an actual side crash or impact severe enough to cause significant visible damage to the vehicle.

Q4: What is the purpose of side airbag system installed in my car?

A: The side airbag system consists of a door mounted airbag, and a Head Protection System (HPS).

The door-mounted airbags deploy just above the armrest to help protect the torso in a severe side impact.

HPS is an inflatable restraint intended to help provide the driver and front passenger with head protection in a severe side impact. HPS works together with the front door-mounted side airbags, and other features such as BMW's interlocking door anchoring system, to help provide optimum side impact protection.

Q5: What could happen if my side airbag deploys unnecessarily?

A: Unnecessary deployment of the side airbag system could cause serious injury if the occupant's head is resting near any side airbag.

In addition, the Battery Safety Terminal (BST) would also activate, disconnecting the starter cable from the battery. In this case, vehicle electrical systems would continue to operate and the engine would continue to run but, after stopping, could not be restarted.

Q6: Are there any precautions that should be taken when seated next to a side airbag?

A: For vehicles equipped with side airbags, all occupants should be properly restrained (children in appropriate child restraint systems, larger children and adults using the safety belts) and sitting upright. Never let an occupant's head rest near any side airbag. If this warning is not heeded, the inflating airbag could cause a serious or fatal injury.

For all children 12 years old and younger, NHTSA and BMW recommend they ride in the rear seat. This recommendation is based on the fact that the rear is the safest place for every passenger.

Q7: When will I receive my notification letter?

A: Mailings are scheduled to begin by the end of September 2002.

Q8: What will be done to fix my car, and how long will it take to repair?

A: The remedy will consist of recalibrating the central airbag control module to reduce sensitivity to these non-crash impacts. This modification will require approximately one hour and will be performed free of charge. Additional time may be required, depending on the BMW center's scheduling and processing. Contact your BMW center for an appointment once you receive your notification letter.

Q9: Do I have to wait for my recall letter to have the recall performed?

A: Yes. BMW is currently developing the necessary software to perform the recall. Owners will be notified as soon as the fix is available.

Q10: Can customers continue to drive their vehicles?

A: Yes, however certain precautions should be taken before the repair is performed. Caution should be exercised when encountering rough roads, potholes, curbs, etc. In such conditions, proceed carefully, avoiding excessive speed and severe bumps.

All occupants should always be properly restrained (children in appropriate child restraint systems, larger children and adults using safety belts) and sitting upright. Never let an occupant's head rest near any side airbag.

Do not lean towards or against a door with a side airbag.

Refer to the appropriate safety information in your Owner's Manual (see pages 54-60) and the BMW Safety Tips card. Observe the warnings contained in the airbag warning labels on your car.

If you are not the sole driver of your car, please advise all other drivers of these possible consequences.

Q11: Can I have my side airbag deactivated?

No, you cannot have your front side airbags and Head Protection Systems deactivated on the vehicles involved in this recall. However, if your vehicle is equipped with optional rear side airbags, they can be deactivated. Contact your local BMW center for more information.

Distribution:

Department	X	All Departments
Title	M	All Managers
ProductType	A	Auto
Dealer Number		
Division	UX	Market Area
Region	XX	All Regions
Area	XX	All Areas
PDC		
Country		
State		

Scully, William ZU-A-21

From: Quality & Service Engineer [QSENG@dealers.bmwna.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 22, 2002 2:17 PM
To: DCS 2000 Server
Subject: DISplus/GT1 CD30 Update #1

To:
BMW Service Managers
BMW Parts Managers

Due to a Parts system computer error, full distribution of DISplus/GT1 CD30 update #1 (SI B07 04 02 dated July 2002) was not accomplished. Centers that did not receive a copy of CD30 update #1 can order a copy at this time using normal Parts ordering procedures, and Part Number P/N 01 99 0 030 367. Centers who are in need should only order (1) copy due to limited supplies.

Note: You will recently have received CD30 update #2. As stated in SI B07 06 02, update # 2 can only be loaded if CD 30 update # 1 has already been loaded.

Distribution:

Department	W	Service Dept
Title	M	Manager
ProductType	A	Auto
Dealer Number		