



This Service Information bulletin supersedes SI B63 06 11 **dated February 2012.**

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.

BMW centers must ensure recalls are completed after having been notified by BMW of North America, LLC (BMWNA) that a safety-related defect or noncompliance exists in any motor vehicle or item of replacement equipment in the center's possession at the time of notification. In BMW NA's case, this notification would typically be made by the issuance of a recall notification in the form of a Service Information bulletin (SIB) or transmission of a Dealer Communication System (DCS) recall message.

Under the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1966, as amended, if a recall campaign is announced by BMW NA, centers must ensure that all recalls on new vehicles and new items of replacement equipment are completed BEFORE delivery to the consumer. This means that centers may not legally deliver new motor vehicles or new items of replacement equipment to consumers with an open recall.

The Safety Act also prohibits centers from selling or leasing the motor vehicle or item of replacement equipment, unless and until the open recall has been completed BEFORE delivery. This also pertains to vehicles in the Certified Pre-Owned program, and to items of replacement equipment.

Finally, BMW centers should not sell or use parts that have been recalled by BMW NA. Please follow the specific instructions provided by BMW NA on the return or disposition of the parts.

MODEL

E46/4 (3 Series Sedan) produced from 9/1/01 to 02/01/05

SITUATION

One or more of the following lights does not function in the rear lamp assembly, mounted on the rear quarter panel (rear parking light, rear turn signal, and rear brake light).

CAUSE

A poor ground connection at the rear lamp assembly (connectors X338 left side – pin # 2 and X339 right side – pin # 3) causes a malfunction of the rear tail lamps.

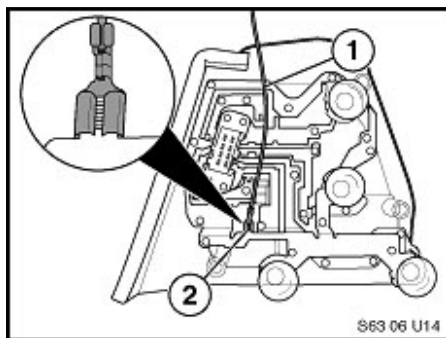
AFFECTED VEHICLES

This Recall involves E46/4 (3 Series Sedan) vehicles produced from **September 1, 2001 to February 01, 2005.**

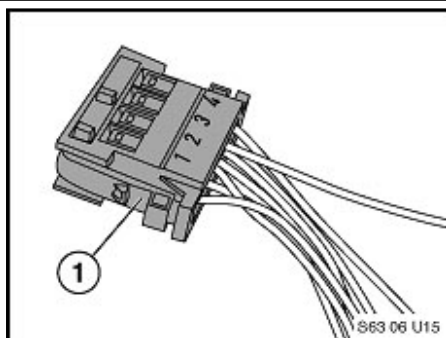
In order to determine whether a specific vehicle has had this Recall Campaign completed or is affected by this Recall Campaign, first check the B-pillar label for code number **599**. If code number **599** has been punched out, the Recall Campaign has already been performed. If code number **599** has not been punched out, it will be necessary to utilize the "Service Menu" of DCSnet (Dealer Communication System), or the Key Reader.

Based on the response of the system, either proceed with the corrective action or take no further action.

PROCEDURE



1. **UPDATE!** Check the operation and function of all the lamps (park lamp, turn signal, and brake lamp) for both rear lamp assemblies.
2. If all lamps **are** functioning correctly, proceed to step 5.
3. If the lamps within either tail lamp assembly **are not** functioning, inspect the wire harness connectors (left side connector X319 and right side connector X318) for thermal damage.



UPDATE! If thermal damage is found:

4. **UPDATE!** Replace the 8-pin connector socket housing and all 7-pin connectors for the malfunctioning side(s) only.
- See the 8-Pin Connector Socket Housing Replacement procedure.

UPDATE! 8-Pin Connector Socket Housing Replacement

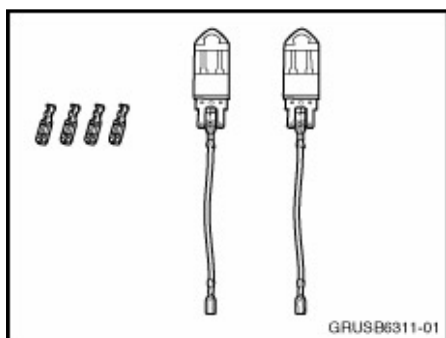
Remove the socket housing (1) (X338 and/or X339): Refer to ISTA (Integrated Service Technical Application) Repair Instructions **REP 63 21 055** "Replace the socket housing for the left-hand or right-hand rear light (side panel)."

Make note of the pin assignments and wire colors. Remove the harness tape about 150 mm from the 8-pin socket housing. Cut the cables off directly flush with the 8-pin socket (connector) housing X319 and/or X318 as needed. Replace the socket housing and all the (7) connector terminals, only for the defective side. Clean the connectors on the light carrier to improve a good contact to the other circuits.

If no thermal damage is found proceed to step # 5 or after repairing the 8-pin connector(s) with thermal damage, proceed to the next step, # 6.

5. **UPDATE!** If both rear lamp assemblies **already** have an additional repair kit ground cable (1) on the bulb holder (2) (see diagram – bulb holder is removed):

No further repair is necessary.

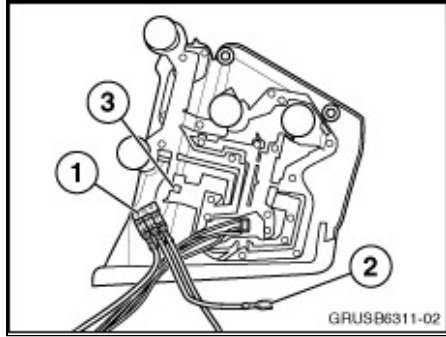


6. **UPDATE!** If additional ground cables are not present on both sides, perform the following repair.

In this step, the repair kit "ground cables" (see diagram) are installed.

Locate the brown wire (pin #2 for X338/X319 for the left, and pin #3 for X339/X318 for the right side), and cut the brown wire approx. 45 mm from the 8-pin connector. Do the below procedure for both sides.

7. **UPDATE!** Strip both ends of the wire and install two of the supplied female terminals.
8. **UPDATE!** Connect the two female terminals onto the outer terminals



of the supplied comb connector (1).

Insert the fully assembled comb connector into the insulator housing and snap in place.

Install the female terminal end of the comb connector ground wire (2) to the blade terminal of the tail lamp circuit board (3), as shown in the diagram.

9. Retape the wiring harness with electrical tape.

UPDATE!

Important Notes (refer to the attachment):

- The repair kit that is installed as part of this Recall serves as **supplementary/additional ground wire/circuit for the rear tail light bulb carrier**.
- This being the case, even if the existing pin #2 (left side bulb socket connector X338) and/or pin #3 (right side bulb socket connector X339) ground terminals are corroded or missing (thermal damage) on the rear tail light bulb carrier, **the rear tail light bulb (socket) carrier does not require replacement**.
- It is important to also clean the electrical contacts of the tail lamp bulb socket housings, to ensure there is a good connection with the pins of the wire harness connectors (newly installed or existing, as applicable).
- Defective light bulbs, including incorrectly installed bulb types, are not covered under this Recall.
- Do not claim additional parts that are not listed in this SIB, as this will delay claim payment.

PARTS INFORMATION

Part Number	Description	Quantity
61 12 9 281 435	Repair kit (ground cables)	1

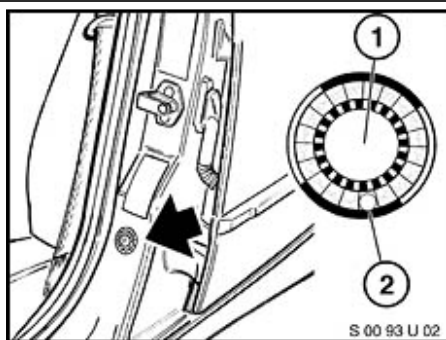
UPDATE!

Only if a rear lamp is not working (one or both sides), the following parts are required: 8-pin connector socket housing replacement, as applicable.

Be advised, due to our return policy the below parts are not returnable (less than \$10.00).

12 52 7 519 956	Socket housing 8-pin	1 per side
12 52 1 433 217	Connector	7 per side

LABEL INSTRUCTIONS



This Recall Campaign has been assigned code number **599**. After the vehicle has been checked and/or corrected, obtain a label (SD 92-420) and:

- Emboss your BMW center warranty number in the middle of the label (1);
- Punch out code number **599** (2), printed on the label; and
- 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.

WARRANTY INFORMATION

The repair described in this bulletin is covered under warranty regardless of time or mileage.

Reimbursement for this Recall will be via normal claim entry, utilizing **one** of the following scenarios when this Safety Recall shows open on a vehicle.

Important Note: Please do not direct the customer to contact BMW NA's Customer Relations and Service department when his or her situation can be resolved by your center by utilizing information listed below.

Defect Code:	00 63 22 01 00	
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Procedure step# 5: Both rear lamp assemblies already have an additional ground cable on the bulb socket/holder)

Labor Operation:	Labor Allowance:	Description:
00 60 041	Refer to KSD2	Check the function of both rear lamp assemblies (both lamps have the additional repair kit "ground cables" already present)

Procedure steps # 6 through # 9: Install the repair kit "ground cables" only

Labor Operation:	Labor Allowance:	Description:
00 60 042	Refer to KSD2	Check the function of both rear lamp assemblies and fit additional repair kit "ground cables"

Procedure steps # 4 and # 6 through # 9: Replace the 8-pin connector socket housing(s) and install the repair kit "ground cables"

Labor Operation:	Labor Allowance:	Description:
00 60 043	Refer to KSD2	Check the function of both rear lamp assemblies, replace 1 connector, and fit additional repair kit "ground cables"
or		
00 60 044	Refer to KSD2	Check the function of both rear lamp assemblies, replace 2 connectors, and fit additional repair kit "ground cables"

The four labor operation codes listed above are all Main labor operations.

Refer to KSD2 for the corresponding flat rate unit (FRU) allowance. Enter the Chassis Number, which consists of the last 7 digits of the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN). Click on the "Search" button, and then enter the applicable flat rate labor operation in the FR code field.

If a previous Compliant repair was performed:

When a vehicle inspection and the customer pay invoice confirm that a previous repair to address the issue, outlined in this bulletin, **is sufficient** to comply with this Safety Recall's repair procedure:

1. Take a picture of the repair and retain it in your records, together with the repair order and VIN information.

2. Please issue a reimbursement to the customer for the previous repair.
3. Proceed and perform the recall inspection repair per this bulletin.
4. Submit the prior customer pay repair expense, along with the inspection procedure, under **Defect Code 00 63 22 01 00** as follows:

Sublet Code 3	Dollar Amount	Reimbursement for allowable expenses related to the previous customer pay repair
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Retain the “original” customer pay invoice (BMW center or other) in your files; this documentation may be requested by BMW during the claim review process.

If a previous Non-Compliant repair was performed:

A Non-Compliant repair is one that allows the rear tail lamp(s) to properly function, but it does not correct the root cause problem to prevent another failure.

When a vehicle inspection and the customer pay invoice confirm that a previous repair to address the issue, outlined in this bulletin, is not sufficient to comply with this Safety Recall’s repair procedure:

1. Please issue a reimbursement to the customer for the previous repair.
2. Proceed and perform the recall repair, from those listed above, which applies per this bulletin.
3. Submit the prior customer pay repair expense, along with the recall applicable repair procedure, under **Defect Code 00 63 22 01 00** as follows:

Sublet Code 3	Dollar Amount	Reimbursement for allowable expenses related to the previous customer pay repair
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Retain the “original” customer pay invoice (BMW center or other) in your files; this documentation may be requested by BMW during the claim review process.

The vehicle is not presented for inspection, but the prior customer pay invoice is presented.

If your center is **only** presented with a customer pay invoice for a previous repair to address the issue outlined in this bulletin:

1. Scan and save to a file a copy the “original” customer pay invoice (BMW center or other).

Retain the “original” customer pay invoice (BMW center or other) in your files.

2. Submit a VIN-specific email to Warranties.special.request@bmwna.com with “item 1 file” as an attachment.
3. Warranties will confirm receipt by return email.
4. Proceed and submit a claim for the prior customer pay repair expense as follows:

Use the current repair order date and a valid vehicle mileage.

Defect Code	85 99 00 12 NA	TREAD Act: Prior Repair Reimbursement
Sublet Code 3	Dollar Amount	Reimbursement for allowable expenses related to the previous customer pay repair

5. BMW will review the claim and supporting documentation.
6. If the claim is approved, the claim credit will be issued through DCSnet.
7. Your center can now issue a reimbursement to the customer for the previous repair.

This claim submission will not close the “Open” Safety Recall, since the vehicle was not available for inspection/repair.

Note: Aftersales Area Manager (AAM) Field authorization is not required for these claim submissions.

ATTACHMENTS

View PDF attachment [B630611 11V-438 Interim Letter.](#)

View PDF attachment [B630611 11V-438 Follow Up.](#)

View PDF attachment [B630611 E46 Sedan Rear Lamps Recall FAQs.](#)

View PDF attachment [B630611 FAQ Parts Analysis.](#)

View PDF attachment [B630611 Tread Act Customer Reimbursement.](#)