

Ref: CCC/CP/CA/06/2025

31 October 2025

WARNING NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

SAFETY RECALL OF VEHICLES BY BMW GROUP SOUTH AFRICA FOR FAULTY STARTER MOTOR AND TAKATA AIRBAGS

A. SAFETY RECALL OF 12,491 BMW SERIES VEHICLES (UPDATE)

1. Reference is made to the Consumer alert published on 17 October 2025, Ref CCC/CP/CA/05/2025 by the COMESA Competition Commission (the “**Commission**”), regarding the Safety Recall of 12, 491 BMW series vehicles. The recall highlighted that the affected vehicles may allow water to enter the starter motor at specific points, leading to corrosion, prevention of the engine from starting, short circuit and localized overheating of the starter motor. Details of the affected vehicles and the risks involved can be obtained on this link: [Consumer alert regarding the recall of 12,491 by BMW Group, South Africa](#).
2. Following an engagement with BMW Group South Africa (“BMW”), the Commission has learnt that the following COMESA Member States are affected by the recall: **Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tunisia, and Zimbabwe**. Consumers in the above countries can confirm if their vehicles are affected by entering the chassis number on the following website: Recalls and technical updates <https://www.bmw.com/en/footer/recall/recall-overview.html>.
3. BMW has urged affected consumers to have the starter motor in their vehicles replaced at the nearest authorized BMW dealership, as it can lead to a vehicle fire in certain cases.

B. SAFETY RECALL: TAKATA AIRBAGS

4. Reference is also made to the Consumer alert published on 18 July 2024, Ref CCC/CP/CA/08/2024 by the Commission regarding the recall of several vehicle brands over faulty TAKATA airbags. Details of the affected vehicles and the risks involved can be obtained on this link: [Consumer alert regarding faulty Takata Airbags](#)
5. The Commission has further been notified by BMW of a safety recall of some of their BMW vehicles. This follows their product inspections that have determined that certain driver airbag and/or the front passenger airbag supplied by TAKATA must be replaced. Certain front airbags supplied by TAKATA may get affected by humidity and temperature fluctuations which can cause the gas generator to malfunction after a few years. This poses the risk that when an airbag is deployed after a collision, the pressure in the gas

generator becomes too high, causing it to burst and resultant flying metal parts can cause serious, and in extreme cases, fatal injuries

6. According to BMW, the affected COMESA Member States in this recall are: **Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.**
7. BMW is urging consumers to check whether their respective vehicles are affected by entering the chassis number on the following website: Recalls and technical updates: <https://www.bmw.com/en/footer/recall/recall-overview.html>. The user will immediately be notified whether a measure needs to be carried out, and they should contact the nearest BMW partner to clarify the repair options and have the airbags replaced free of charge.
8. Pursuant to Article 30(1)(b) of the COMESA Competition Regulations, the Commission wishes to inform the public of the possible risks arising from using the recalled vehicles. The Commission further advises consumers to exercise caution and to verify whether their BMW vehicles are affected, and have them checked and/or repaired by the nearest BMW partner.
9. The Commission is also working with the affected Member States to ensure that any affected consumers are provided redress in accordance with the recall.
10. Should you require more information or clarification on the matter, you may contact the undersigned.



Mr. Steven Kamukama

**Director Consumer Welfare and Advocacy
COMESA Competition Commission
5th Floor, Kang'ombe House
P.O. Box 30742, Lilongwe 3, Malawi
Office Phone: +265 (0) 111 772466
Email: skamukama@comesacompetition.org;
CC: compcom@comesacompetition.org**