



International Carwash Association
Your Partner for Success

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Vehicle Damage Alert:
BMW 5 Series (2006-2007) All-Wheel Drive Sedan Front Axle Control Arm**

CHICAGO, IL – December 18, 2006 - As previously reported by the International Carwash Association, the front axle control arm on the 2006-2007 BMW 5 Series all-wheel drive vehicles can interfere with the inside guide rail on some carwash conveyors.

The ground clearance of these BMW 4WD Sedans is 4 3/8 inches, which is 1 inch less than the 2 WD models. However, the inside rail height of some conveyor systems is more than 4 3/8 inches and can be as much as 5 inches. Thus far, only some Flapan/3G conveyors have been reported as impacted by these specifications.

The resultant interference of the aluminum front control arm and the steel guide rail causes significant wear on the control arm and could result in a control arm failure. The replacement cost of the control arm is approximately \$600 at a BMW dealership.

BMW has been contacted about this issue.

The International Carwash Association is encouraging all conveyor car wash operators to examine their rail clearances and make changes as necessary to prevent vehicle damage.

Please visit www.carwash.org/OperatorInformation/pages/VehicleDamageCenter to report vehicle damage occurring at your wash and share all issued Vehicle Damage Alerts with your staff.

If you have any questions, please contact the International Carwash Association at (312) 321-5199 or info@CarWash.org.

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