SUBJECT  Seat Belt Buckle Switch, SRS Fault Codes 16/17 or 24/25

MODEL  3 Series (E36), 5 Series (E39), 7 Series (E38) produced up to 09/97

SITUATION  The SRS airbag warning light stays illuminated, and the following fault codes are stored in the SRS Airbag Control Module fault memory:

On vehicles equipped with ZAE system,

--- "24 - Driver’s seat belt buckle switch", or
--- "25 - Passenger’s seat belt buckle switch"

On vehicles equipped with MRS system,

--- "16 - Driver’s seat belt buckle switch", or
--- "17 - Passenger’s seat belt buckle switch".

Important: These faults have no effect on the airbag deployment function.

CAUSE  Defective printed circuit board or contacts of the seat buckle switch, are causing resistance values to fluctuate under mechanical load.

CORRECTION  Perform diagnosis with DIS/MoDiC tester utilizing the corresponding test modules. On a customer complaint basis only, and if Fault Codes 16/17 or 24/25 are logged in fault memory of the control unit, replace the respective seat safety buckle assembly with the improved part. The appropriate part number can be located in the BMW Electronic Parts Catalog (also, refer to the Parts Replacement Table below). Clear the fault memory of the airbag control module.

The safety belt latch with the improvements to the mechanical microswitch can be identified by the date 01.09.1997 or higher, stamped on the receptacle housing. Furthermore, since September of 1997 a Hall Effect sensor replaced the mechanical switch in the seat latch assembly.

Part manufactured after 01.09.1997
For details on replacing the front left or right safety belt buckle, refer to repair instruction RA 72 11 030.

Observe all relevant safety information when performing repairs to the Airbag System. Always follow the "Safety Regulation for Handling Components of the Airbag System" (TIS 32 34...).

Important: Since March of '97 production, all E36 models are fitted with the pyrotechnical tensioner units, which replaced the mechanical type. In case of replacement, only the safety belt buckle with pyrotechnical tensioner must be used on those vehicles (P/N 72 11 8 221 013, and 72 11 8 221 014).

1. E36 belt buckle with pyrotechnical tensioner
2. E36 belt buckle with mechanical tensioner

**PARTS INFORMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Production (tensioner/switch)</th>
<th>Part Number</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E 36/2/4/5</td>
<td>09/93 to 03/97</td>
<td>72 11 8 167 711 left</td>
<td>Mechanical tensioner, mechanical switch (3 wires, 3 pin connector); part manufactured after 01.09.1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 36/2/4/5</td>
<td>From 03/97</td>
<td>72 11 8 221 013 left</td>
<td>Pyrotechnical tensioner, initially mechanical switch (3 wires, 4 pin connector), replaced with Hall sensor (4 wires, 4 pin connector)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z3</td>
<td>From 01/96</td>
<td>72 11 8 221 013 left</td>
<td>Same as above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E 38/39</td>
<td>Up to 03/97</td>
<td>72 11 8 233 537 left</td>
<td>Pyrotechnical tensioner, mechanical switch (3 wires, 3 pin connector); part</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WARRANTY INFORMATION

Covered under the terms of the BMW New Vehicle Limited Warranty.

Defect Code: 65 77 98 96 00

Labor Operation: Replacing front left or right buckle assembly with seat belt pretensioner

Main Work: 00 52 132

Labor Allowance:
- 9 FRU E38, E39
- 6 FRU E36/2, E36/5
- 7 FRU E36, Z3

Associated Work: 00 52 698

Labor Allowance:
- 8 FRU E38, E39
- 5 FRU E36
- 6 FRU Z3

Note:
The following explanations will spell out the correct use of the work times.

**Main Work:**
Use this labor operation number when the only repair performed is the listed warranty repair.

**OR**

**+Associated Work:**
Use this labor operation number when other repairs or services are performed along with the listed warranty repair.

Under no circumstances should both labor operation numbers be claimed. Attempts to claim both times will result in an unnecessary delay in claim processing and payment.