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BMW 3-Series (92-98) & Z3 (96-98) Haynes Online Manual

22 Anti-theft alarm system - general information

Note:

This information is applicable only to the anti-theft alarm system installed by BMW as standard equipment.

1 Some models in the range are equipped with an anti-theft alarm system as standard equipment. The alarm has switches on all the doors (including the trunk lid), the hood, the glovebox and the ignition switch and also a tilt switch which is sensitive to shocks. If the trunk lid, hood, glovebox or either of the doors are opened or the ignition switch is switched on while the alarm is set, or if the tilt switch senses the vehicle is being tampered with, the alarm horn will sound and the hazard warning lights/headlights will flash. The alarm also has an immobilizer function which makes the ignition system inoperable while the alarm is triggered.

2 The alarm is set using the key in the driver's or passenger front door lock or when the doors are locked using the remote central locking device. The LED in the dash will flash to indicate that the alarm system is operational. If a door or window or the glovebox are not fully closed when the alarm is set, the LED will flash quicker than normal. After a short period the alarm will then operate as normal but with the switch for the open door/window or glovebox switched off.

3 If necessary, the tilt switch sensing function of the alarm can be disabled. To do this turn the alarm on as normal, then turn the alarm on again for a second time (either using the door lock or remote locking device). This will disable the tilt switch but leave all the other switches turned on.

4 Should the alarm system become faulty the vehicle should be taken to a BMW dealer for examination. They will have access to a special diagnostic tester which will quickly trace any fault present in the system.

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