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BMW 3-Series and Z4 (99-05) Includes 2006 325ci/330ci Coupe and Convertible models Haynes Online Manual.

25 Front seat belt tensioning mechanism - general information

Warning:

The models covered by this manual are equipped with Supplemental Restraint systems (SRS), more commonly known as airbags. Always disarm the airbag system before working in the vicinity of any airbag system component to avoid the possibility of accidental deployment of the airbag, which could cause personal injury (see Chapter 12) . Do not use a memory saving device to preserve the ECM's memory when working on or near airbag system components.

1 Most models are fitted with a front seat belt tensioner system. The system is designed to instantaneously take up any slack in the seat belt in the case of a sudden frontal impact, therefore reducing the possibility of injury to the front seat occupants. Each front seat is fitted with its own system, the tensioner being situated near the seat belt lock.

2 The seat belt tensioner is triggered by a frontal impact above a predetermined force. Lesser impacts, including impacts from behind, will not trigger the system.

3 When the system is triggered, an pyrotechnic device (seatbelt tensioner) retracts and locks the seat belt approximately two additional inches. This prevents the seat belt moving and keeps the occupant in position in the seat. Once the tensioner has been triggered, the seat belt will be permanently locked and the assembly must be replaced.

4 There is a risk of injury if the system is triggered inadvertently when working on the vehicle. If any work is to be carried out on the seat/seat belt disable the tensioner by disconnecting the battery negative lead (see [Chapter 12](#)), and waiting at least two minutes before proceeding.

5 The front seats in convertible models are designed with an integrated seat belt system. This system includes tensioners and seatbelt locks mounted directly to the seat frame along with the seatbelt guide attached to the headrest. This system must be serviced by a dealership or other qualified repair facility.

6 Also note the following warnings before contemplating any work on the front seat. **Warning:** *If the tensioner mechanism is dropped, it must be replaced, even it has suffered no apparent damage.*

- Do not allow any solvents to come into contact with the tensioner mechanism.

- **Do not subject the seat to any form of shock as this could accidentally trigger the seat belt tensioner.**
- **Check for any deformation of the seat belt stalk tensioner, and anchorage brackets. Replace any that are damaged.**

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