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

1 General information

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The braking system is of the power-assisted, dual-circuit hydraulic type. Under normal circumstances, both circuits operate in unison. However, if there is hydraulic failure in one circuit, full braking force will still be available at two wheels.

All models are equipped with front and rear disc brakes. Most models are equipped with ABS, and was offered as an option on other models (refer to [Section 19](#) for further information on ABS operation). **Note:** *On models also equipped with Automatic Stability Control plus Traction (ASC+T), the ABS system also operates the traction control side of the system.*

The front disc brakes are actuated by single-piston sliding type calipers, which ensure that equal pressure is applied to each disc pad.

All models are equipped with rear disc brakes, actuated by single-piston sliding calipers, while a separate drum brake arrangement is installed in the center of the brake disc to provide a separate means of parking brake application. **Note:** *When servicing any part of the system, work carefully and methodically; also observe scrupulous cleanliness when overhauling any part of the hydraulic system. Always replace components if in doubt about their condition (in axle sets, where applicable), and use genuine BMW replacement parts, or parts of known good quality.*

Precautions

There are some general cautions and warnings involving the brake system on this vehicle:

- A. Only use the specified brake fluid conforming to DOT specifications.
- B. The brake pads and linings contain fibers that are hazardous to your health if inhaled. Whenever you work on brake system components, clean all parts with brake system cleaner. Do not allow the fine dust to become airborne. Also, wear an approved filtering mask.
- C. Safety should be paramount whenever any servicing of the brake components is performed. Do not use parts or fasteners that are not in perfect condition, and be sure that all clearances and torque specifications are adhered to. If you are at all unsure about a certain procedure, seek professional advice. Upon completion of any brake system work, test the brakes carefully in a controlled area before putting the

vehicle into normal service. If a problem is suspected in the brake system, don't drive the vehicle until it's fixed.

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