

Engine Stall Issue Fixed

Issue:

I've read at least 100 identical situations from other forums of the very same problem and NOBODY has ever found a solution to it.

Occurs when: Engine is at operating temperature.

Say I push the gas pedal to a couple of rpm (2500-4500) and I let the engine come to idle, the revs will drop to about 400 and then bounce to the normal ~650 and stay there.

Sometimes, the rpm will drop so much that the engine stalls. Now this happens once a week and makes the problem spotting very difficult.

I changed:

1. Spark plugs (OEM)
2. Fuel Filter (OEM)
3. Engine oil/filter
4. The whole engine (YES I have now fitted an almost new 2004 engine in my car - DIY to follow)
5. Checked for vacuum leaks, air inlet hose.
6. Intake/Exhaust Camshaft Sensors
7. MAF
8. Tried different fuel stations, higher octane fuel (RON100)

The same problem occurred when I had the old engine as well. NO Codes are stored and no engine lights comes on. Can't be VANOS since it happened on both engines or any of the sensors.

I was ready to give up when a fellow member (and BMW master technician @ UK) provided me the following information:

Measure no. 4279488

M54 B22: Engine stalls when coasting

Release date 31/07/03 GB

Vehicles affected E series E39 E46
Engine M54
Body CABRIO COMP COUPE LIM TOUR

Complaint

The engine stalls when the vehicle is coasting, e.g. when approaching traffic lights.

Vehicles concerned:

E39, E46 with M54/B22

Production period:

Start of series production to mid-April 2003

Cause

Data status in the DME control unit.

Measure

In the event of a customer complaint, reprogram the DME control unit with DIS CD 35 or a more recent version. CD35 expected release is early September 03. The modified data status in the DME control unit was introduced into production in calendar week 16/2003.

The symptoms match my case and therefore I arranged a visit at the dealership. Two days later I got my car back. Don't worry, the reprogramming doesn't take two days to complete, just an hour. They just had my car sitting in their garage. Can't do anything about it since there are the only ones on the island who carry the BMW hardware.

Anyway, the car drove much better after reprogramming. Much smoother specially while at highway. When I release the gas pedal, I can see the rpm drop freely until ~1100 and from there until idle (650) the ECU drops them slowly slowly. Never had a stall again!! (knock on wood)