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Service Tips and Best Practices

2004-2010 BMW X3 – Front Lower Ball Joint and Front Lower Forward Control Arm Identification

Brand	Supreme	Product	Control Arm and Ball Joint	Date	January 2020
Part Number(s)	MS10501/MS10547/MS10196/MS10197				

When replacing front lower forward control arms and/or front lower ball joints on the BMW E83 X3, it is important to identify the correct type required.

Production Date- up to Dec. 2006		Production Date- After Jan.2007	
Original "Short" Height Ball Joint – OE PN: 31103418341		Revised "Taller" Height Ball Joint – OE PN: 31103438623	
Original "Thin Neck" Control Arm	OE PN: 31100363479 (Left)	Revised "Thick Neck" Control Arm	OE PN: 31103443127 (Left)
	OE PN: 31100363478 (Right)		OE PN: 31103443128 (Right)

Vehicles built up to December, 2006 (E83) and which **still** retain the factory components, will feature the original "thin neck" control arm. This "thin neck" control arm can only be used with the original "shorter" height ball joint. **(See Figure 1)**



Figure 1: Original "Thin Neck" - Pre 2006

Vehicles built **after** January, 2007 (E83 LCI) will feature the revised "thick neck" control arm. This "thick neck" control arm can only be used with the revised "taller" height ball joint. **(See Figure 2)**



Figure 2: New "Thick Neck" - 2007 and after.

It is critical to note that these components **cannot be interchanged.**

If replacing a "thin neck" control arm with a "thick neck" control arm, the ball joint must be updated.

If replacing a "shorter" height ball joint with a "taller" height ball joint, the control arm must be updated.

It is also important to note that if replacing with updated components, the replacement should be done in pairs for both sides of the vehicle to retain suspension geometry. Perform vehicle alignment after repair.

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