

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

20V-056

Manufacturer Name : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Submission Date : JAN 31, 2020

NHTSA Recall No. : 20V-056

Manufacturer Recall No. : 69AE



Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Address : 3800 Hamlin Road
Auburn Hills MI 48326

Company phone : 1-800-893-5298

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 106,857

Estimated percentage with defect : NR

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2000-2001 Audi TT ROADSTER

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : "Based on the suppliers production records all parts produced until August 20th, 1999 are affected. As the inflators have been produced more than 20 years ago traceability of those parts is limited. Therefore Audi has decided to include all vehicles with NADI inflators produced until December 31, 1999 in the recall. All vehicles will be checked in order to determine whether they are equipped with inflators from the affected production period. Note: Audi is currently unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect.
TT Roadster: 16"

Production Dates : NOV 17, 1999 - DEC 13, 1999

VIN Range 1 : Begin : TRUTC28N7Y1051491 **End :** TRUTC28N011000159 ☒ Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2000-2000 Audi TT COUPE

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : "Based on the suppliers production records all parts produced until August 20th, 1999 are affected. As the inflators have been produced more than 20 years ago traceability of those parts is limited. Therefore Audi has decided to include all vehicles with NADI inflators produced until December 31, 1999 in the recall. All vehicles will be checked in order to determine whether they are equipped with inflators from the affected production period. Note: Audi is currently unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. TT Coupe: 6,677"

Production Dates : JAN 20, 1999 - DEC 21, 1999

VIN Range 1 : Begin : TRUTS28N8Y1000102 End : TRUTC28N9Y1101100 ☒ Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 1999-1999 Audi A8

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : "Based on the suppliers production records all parts produced until August 20th, 1999 are affected. As the inflators have been produced more than 20 years ago traceability of those parts is limited. Therefore Audi has decided to include all vehicles with NADI inflators produced until December 31, 1999 in the recall. All vehicles will be checked in order to determine whether they are equipped with inflators from the affected production period. Note: Audi is currently unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Audi A8: 4,058"

Production Dates : SEP 04, 1997 - FEB 13, 1999

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUBG34DXXN000276 End : WAUBG34DXXN004201 ☒ Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 1998-2000 Audi A6

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : "Based on the suppliers production records all parts produced until August 20th, 1999 are affected. As the inflators have been produced more than 20 years ago traceability of those parts is limited. Therefore Audi has decided to include all vehicles with NADI inflators produced until December 31, 1999 in the recall. All vehicles will be checked in order to determine whether they are equipped with inflators from the affected production period. Note: Audi is currently unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Audi A6: 30,587"

Production Dates : AUG 06, 1997 - OCT 09, 1999

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUBA64BXWN028644 End : WAUZL54B6YN000300 ☒ Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 1999-2000 Audi A4

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : "Based on the suppliers production records all parts produced until August 20th, 1999 are affected. As the inflators have been produced more than 20 years ago traceability of those parts is limited. Therefore Audi has decided to include all vehicles with NADI inflators produced until December 31, 1999 in the recall. All vehicles will be checked in order to determine whether they are equipped with inflators from the affected production period. Note: Audi is currently unable to provide an estimate of the percentage of vehicles to actually contain the defect. Audi A4: 65,519"

Production Dates : AUG 04, 1997 - DEC 21, 1999

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUCB28D8XA003482 End : WAUKC28D4YA112516 ☒ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : Affected vehicles are equipped with Takata Non-Azide Driver Airbag Inflators (NADI) which were produced and sold by Takata. These inflators do not contain phase stabilized ammonium nitrate (PSAN) propellant. According to the equipment defect notification 19E-080 filed by Takata, certain Takata Non-Azide Driver Airbag Inflators have the potential to exhibit elevated moisture ingress due to insufficient aluminum tape seal. This can lead to slow deployment, which may result in insufficient protection by the driver frontal airbag, or there may be over-aggressive combustion creating excessive internal pressure when the driver frontal airbag is deployed. Audi is currently not aware of any inflator ruptures in the field or in test environments in Audi vehicles. Audi is also not aware of any field incidents in Audi vehicles worldwide where the airbag/inflator showed a slow or non-deployment. However, our testing shows that NADI inflators in Audi vehicles could potentially underinflate or not deploy at all due to moisture ingress.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : In case of a crash with airbag deployment, propellant with high moisture content may result in reduced restraint performance, which may lead to an increased risk of injury.

Audi vehicles are equipped with a different type of NADI inflators than the ones with reported field incidents. At this point Audi is not aware of any cases worldwide in Audi vehicles involving NADI inflators where the airbag did not perform as designed, neither inflator ruptures nor cases of underinflation.

Description of the Cause : Based upon the investigation by the supplier and our own analysis, the potential for an insufficient airbag performance and all influential factors have not been fully understood so far. The failure mechanism may be influenced by a variety of factors, including the subtype of the NADI inflator, manufacturing variations, climatic conditions, vibration, specifics of vehicle applications or other variables.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : none

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 : NR

Component Description : NR

Component Part Number : NR

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Takata (TK Global LLC)
Address : 111 Peyer Court
Romeo MICHIGAN 48065
Country : United States

Chronology :

October 21, 2019: Audi receives information from supplier regarding field incidents with NADI inflators and possibility that inflators in Audi vehicles may also be involved. Immediate start of Audi-internal investigations and search for parts in order to start analysis.

October 24, 2019: First meeting and start of frequent discussions with supplier.

November 15, 2019: Presentation of the topic to the Audi Product Safety Committee.

November 20, 2019: Decision for a precautionary recall in Australia due to several field incidents in Australia involving other OEM's. Audi is not aware of any field cases or test results where the NADI inflator showed an abnormal performance and NADI inflators in Audi vehicles are not the same type that have shown critical performance in other OEM's vehicles. Audi will use parts from Australian vehicles to perform an analysis program.

December 5, 2019: Skype meeting with NHTSA to inform the agency about the current status of this topic at Audi.

Early January 2020: First parts from German market are being analyzed with the supplier.

Mid-January 2020: First parts from Australian market arrive in Germany and are being analyzed with the supplier.

January 22, 2020: Analysis of NADI inflators from the German market show a possibility of no or slow deployment. Test results are being presented to the Audi Product Safety Committee. Due to a potential non-compliance with FMVSS208 a determination of a safety defect was made.

Audi continues to investigate and evaluate the issue with respect to the possibility of inflator ruptures. At this point Audi does not have any indication of inflator ruptures in the field or in test environments.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : At this point due to the age of the vehicles a repair is not available. Audi is working intensively on a remedy with the supplier but currently it is unclear when the remedy will be available. Registered owners of all affected vehicles will be sent an initial letter informing them the replacement parts needed to remedy their vehicle is currently not available. Once replacement parts are available, registered owners will be sent another letter asking them to take their vehicle to an Audi dealer. The dealer will replace the driver frontal airbag inflator with an alternative inflator.
Audi will not offer a reimbursement program under this recall.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : Remedy component not available yet.
Part numbers of recalled component:
4B0.951.403
4B0.951.403 A

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Based on Takata's production records, all inflators produced from August 21, 1999 have received an improved sealing and are therefore not affected.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers/owners: on or before March 27, 2020

Planned Dealer Notification Date : MAR 27, 2020 - MAR 27, 2020

Planned Owner Notification Date : MAR 27, 2020 - MAR 27, 2020

* NR - Not Reported