



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

December 22, 2020

Mr. Chris Sandvig  
Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.  
3800 Hamlin Road  
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

NEF-150SS  
20V-785

**Subject:** Driver Side Air Bag Inflator May Explode

Dear Mr. Sandvig:

This letter serves to acknowledge Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

VOLKSWAGEN/BEETLE/2012-2014  
VOLKSWAGEN/BEETLE CONVERTIBLE/2012-2014

**Mfr's Report Date:** December 16, 2020

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 20V-785

**Components:**

AIR BAGS:FRONTAL

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 105,652

**Problem Description:**

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. (Volkswagen) is recalling certain 2012-2014 Volkswagen Beetle and Beetle Convertible vehicles. The driver's side air bag inflator may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to high absolute humidity, high temperatures, and high temperature cycling.

**Consequence:**

An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

**Remedy:**

Volkswagen will notify owners, and dealers will replace the driver frontal air bag, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin February 12, 2021. Owners may contact Volkswagen customer service at 1-800-893-5298. Volkswagen's number for this recall is 69BC.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

We note that your report states that Volkswagen believes that this matter currently does not have a safety risk. In our view, this statement has no force or effect in terms of Volkswagen's obligation to undertake and complete the recall, and NHTSA does not agree with it.

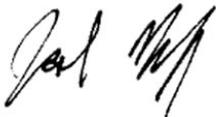
Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Sarah Shiver who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-7401, or by email at [sarah.shiver@dot.gov](mailto:sarah.shiver@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Joshua Neff  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement