



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 26, 2021

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

NEF-107SS
21V-198

Subject: Passenger Air Bag May Deactivate

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:

AUDI/A3/2015-2020
AUDI/A3 ETRON/2016-2018
AUDI/RS3/2017-2020
AUDI/S3/2015-2020

Mfr's Report Date: March 22, 2021

NHTSA Campaign Number: 21V-198

Components:

AIR BAGS:ON-OFF SWITCH ASSEMBLY
AIR BAGS:SENSOR:OCCUPANT CLASSIFICATION:FRONT PASSENGER

Potential Number of Units Affected: 153,152

Problem Description:

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. (Audi) is recalling certain 2015-2020 Audi S3 Sedan, A3 Sedan, 2016-2018 A3 Etron, 2017-2020 RS3 Sedan, and 2015-2019 A3 Cabriolet vehicles. The passenger occupant detection system (PODS) may malfunction and switch off the passenger air bag even when the seat is occupied.

Consequence:

A deactivated passenger air bag increases the risk of injury during a crash.

Remedy:

The remedy program is still in development. Interim notices informing owners of the safety risk are expected to be mailed May 21, 2021. Owners will receive a second notice when the remedy becomes available. Owners may contact Audi customer service at 1-800-253-2834. Audi's number for this recall is 69BY. Note: This is an expansion of Recall 19V-474. Any vehicle previously repaired under Recall 19V474 must return for a new remedy.

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.

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

The percentage of products estimated to contain the defect or noncompliance (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(4)). If less than 1%, amend your filing to state 1% and provide the actual calculated amount in the first product text box.

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

A description of the manufacturer's program for remedying the defect or noncompliance (49 CFR 573.6 (c)(8)(i)).

AMENDED 573 REQUIRED.

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.

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.'s contact for this recall will be Sarah Shiver who may be reached by email at sarah.shiver@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement