



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 10, 2021

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

NEF-107SS
21V-606

Subject: Seat Belt Locking Retractor Malfunction/FMVSS 208

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/A4/2021
AUDI/A5/2021
AUDI/A5 CABRIOLET/2021
AUDI/A6/2021
AUDI/A6 ALLROAD/2021
AUDI/A7/2021
AUDI/A8/2021
AUDI/E-TRON/2021
AUDI/Q3/2021
AUDI/Q5/2021
AUDI/Q7/2021
AUDI/Q8/2021
AUDI/RS Q8/2021
AUDI/RS5/2021
AUDI/RS6/2021
AUDI/RS7/2021
AUDI/S3/2021-2022
AUDI/S4/2021
AUDI/S5/2021
AUDI/S5 CABRIOLET/2021
AUDI/S6/2021
AUDI/S7/2021
AUDI/S8/2021
AUDI/SQ5/2021
AUDI/SQ7/2021
AUDI/SQ8/2021
VOLKSWAGEN/ID.4/2021

Mfr's Report Date: August 5, 2021

NHTSA Campaign Number: 21V-606



Components:

SEAT BELTS

SEAT BELTS:REAR/OTHER:RETRACTOR

Potential Number of Units Affected: 45,496**Problem Description:**

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. (Volkswagen) is recalling certain 2021 Volkswagen ID4, Audi A4 Allroad, A4 Sedan, A5 Cabriolet, A5 Coupe, A5 Sportback, A6 Allroad, A6 Sedan, A7, A8, E-Tron Quattro, E-Tron Sportback Quattro, Q3, Q5, Q5 Sportback, Q7, Q8, RS5 Sportback, RS5 Coupe, RS6 Avant, RS7, RSQ8, S4 Sedan, S5 Cabriolet, S5 Coupe, S5 Sportback, S6 Sedan, S7, S8, SQ5, SQ5 Sportback, SQ7, SQ8, and 2021-2022 S3 Sedan vehicles. The rear seat belt automatic locking retractors may deactivate early, which can prevent the child restraint system from securing properly. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard number 208, "Occupant Crash Protection."

Consequence:

An unsecured child restraint system can increase the risk of injury during a crash.

Remedy:

Dealers will inspect, and replace as necessary, the middle-rear seat belt assemblies, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed October 1, 2021. Owners may contact Volkswagen customer service at 1-800-893-5298 and Audi customer service at 1-800-253-2834. Volkswagen's numbers for this recall are 69CR (VW) and 69CS (Audi).

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.nhtsa.gov.

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

We have received VW's proposed owner notification letters and they are currently under review. You will be notified of any changes or concerns once our review is complete.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Ansley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a checkmark at the end.

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