

Jimenez, Alberto

10159787

From: Jimenez, Alberto
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2005 12:19 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Audi A4 Sudden Acceleration

Dear [REDACTED] A review of our recall data base indicated that the 1998 and 1999 Audi A6 vehicles were recalled (NHTSA recall No. 04V-495000) for a throttle icing problem. This recall was influenced as a result of our investigation (EA04-017). The summary of that recall can be obtained from our Web site at www.nhtsa.dot.gov, select "Recall Search from the Office of Defects Investigation." Follow the instructions provided to obtain the summary. ODI monitors the complaints received to ensure that the scope of all recalls are covered.

Although there are several reports in our complaint data base concerning throttle problems involving the 1999 Audi A4, most occurring when the temperature is below freezing, none indicate that the vehicle goes into full throttle acceleration (throttle pedal going to the floor) as describe by your daughter. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation concerning the problem you daughter experienced. The information you provided will be entered into our database. It will be considered with other future reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

Sincerely,

Alberto A. Jimenez, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement

[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
Comments:

I received a frantic phone call this morning from my daughter who is in Boston, MA. She was driving on the highway at the posted speed when her 1999 Audi A4 suddenly accelerated as if Cruise Control had suddenly kicked in. The accelerator pedal pulled away from her foot to full acceleration and although going uphill with both feet on the brake, she reached speeds in excess of 80 MPH. While trying to control the car, she reached down and attempted to pull the accelerator pedal up with her hand but to no avail. She was able to override the engine and get the car slowed to a point where she could slam it into park and jump out. We have owned the car since new and this is the first time this has happened, although Audi's had been implicated for such problems in the past. This was potentially a life threatening situation and if there are similar situations, the NHTSA needs to be aware and make the public aware. I have done some cursory research and see that newer model year Audi A6s are experiencing an increased number of similar situations - especially on the highway at below freezing temperatures. The temperature in Boston this morning at the time of the incident was 3 degrees F. Please respond.

From NHTSA Web Site.