



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

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

APR 30 2005

NVS-216 mjj
Ref. No. 10113530
Ref. No. 10109613

Brentwood, CA

Dear

Thank you for your e-mail correspondence dated December 16, 2004, concerning a problem you have encountered with your model year (MY) 1982 Volkswagen Rabbit vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Technical Information Services forwarded your correspondence to NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation for a response. It was received on January 13, 2005 (Ref. No. 10109613), and again on February 17, 2005 (Ref. No. 10113530). Due to limited resources we were not able to respond to you in a more timely manner. We regret any inconvenience our delay may have caused you.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain serious safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect may exist. We cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate this report; the previous report (Ref. No. 10097526) you filed with the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Auto Safety Hotline (Hotline) on October 22, 2004; and the additional information you provided to supplement that report, which was received by the agency on November 15, 2004. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. Each report is analyzed and entered into a database to help us determine whether an investigation into a possible safety defect or recall inadequacy is warranted.

Information submitted by vehicle owners using Vehicle Owner's Questionnaires (VOQs) is automatically entered into our complaint database, and data is then available to NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation investigators for review and analysis to determine whether an investigation is warranted. Due to the volume of VOQs received and limited agency resources, NHTSA cannot respond to the submitters of these questionnaires. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused you.



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE
888-DASH-2-DOT
888-327-4236

For your information, we have enclosed the summary for the only safety recall (NHTSA Campaign No. 85V-015) that affects MY 1982 Volkswagen Rabbit vehicles. The subject vehicle population for this safety recall included approximately 25,000 MY 1982 through 1984 Volkswagen Rabbit vehicles for a defect determined to exist with the carburetor throttle shaft.

With respect to the problems you reported encountering with the fuse panel and fuel pump in your vehicle, if it can be determined through our analysis and investigation that a safety-related defect exists in motor vehicles, a manufacturer would be required to recall those motor vehicles regardless of the warranty status. However, under our statute of limitations, we cannot require a manufacturer to exercise any recall without charge for motor vehicles beyond 10-years of age. This 10-year limitation applies only to the manufacturer's responsibility to repair a defect free of charge as part of a safety recall campaign under the Federal statute.

If you have not done so, you may consider contacting your local Consumer Protection Agency, Better Business Bureau, or the California State Office of the Attorney General regarding your problem. You may also ask your local dealership for a meeting with the Volkswagen of America, Inc., district manager regarding your problem.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can contact our toll-free DOT Hotline at 1-888-327-4236. One of our representatives may be able to assist you on matters concerning motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment safety recalls or to report an alleged safety problem. You can also request safety information. If our telephones are busy, or you call during non-working hours, you can leave your name, telephone number, and a brief subject on our recording system. A DOT Hotline representative will return your call.

Additionally, we have an Internet Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov> that you may want to visit. An electronic VOQ is also available on this Web site at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. This form is for vehicle owners to report safety related problems about their motor vehicles or motor vehicle equipment, e.g., child safety seats, jacks, tires, brake fluid, etc. The reports submitted are transferred to our database and are used to identify safety-related defect trends that require our attention. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc., can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

If further assistance is needed, please contact Mr. Michael J. Jordan, Safety Defects Program Assistant, Correspondence Research Division, Office of Defects Investigation, at (202) 493-0576.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alberto A. Jimenez", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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

Enclosures