



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

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

August 16, 2005

The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-2002

NVS-216 mec
Ref. No. 10132337

Dear Senator Sarbanes:

Thank you for your correspondence dated July 26 on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] wrote concerning a problem he encountered with the daytime running lamps on his model year (MY) 2002 Volkswagen Passat vehicle. Your correspondence was received on August 3.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (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. 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 the report you provided on behalf of [REDACTED]. 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 is warranted.

NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation has reviewed its database in an effort to identify whether a safety defect trend exists with regard to problems associated with the electrical and exterior lighting systems in MY 2002 Volkswagen Passat vehicles. At this time, there is insufficient evidence to warrant opening a safety defect investigation. The information you provided on behalf of [REDACTED] has been entered into our database. It will be considered with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention.

If [REDACTED] has not done so, he may consider contacting his local Consumer Protection Agency, Better Business Bureau, or the Maryland State Office of the Attorney General regarding his problem and his rights under the Maryland State Lemon Law. He may also ask his local dealership for a meeting with the Volkswagen of America, Inc., district manager regarding his problem.



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

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The Honorable Paul S. Sarbanes

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please have your staff contact me or Mr. Ronald L. Medford, Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety, at (202) 366-1810.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael W. Harrington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Michael W. Harrington
Director of External Affairs