

From: [Abbew, Margaret CTR \(NHTSA\)](#)
To: [Fogle, Brenda CTR \(NHTSA\)](#)
Subject: FW: NHTSA: Follow up to ODI Complaint: ---10884900
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 2:38:12 PM

From: EVOQ (NHTSA)
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 2:33 PM)
Subject: FW: NHTSA: Follow up to ODI Complaint: ---10884900

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2016 4:05 PM
To: Fogle, Brenda CTR (NHTSA)
Subject: Re: NHTSA: Follow up to ODI Complaint: ---10884900

TO : RANDY REID , CHIEF AND BRENDA FOGLE CTR

SUBJECT ; VW BEETLE , FUSE BOX AND ALTERNATOR TO BATTERY CABLE FAILURE

Please be advised;

This electrical component failure results in the cars loss of electrical system, resulting in the car stalling at any time. This failure has resulted in the car being repaired for the same problem twice. This is not a normal wear and tear failure. This is a part that should never fail. I was in the automotive aftermarket parts business for over 40 years. I am a retired member of the Society of Automotive Engineers. I believe I will be able to provide you with receipts or bills. I will also send you the parts and pictures of the second repair. This type of failure is also noted on the internet in a class action law suit. I will print it and send you a copy. On the internet it is also noted that there have been fires associated with this failure.

So far the repair that I made to the subject vehicle has not failed. I will discuss this repair more in depth in the future.

Note; This car belongs to my Daughter. [REDACTED]
The car was purchased new in 2002 from Anderson VW in Crystal Lake Il.
This first component failed after the car was out of warranty.
The first repair was done by a VW dealer in Schamburg Il. a few years ago. We are currently looking for receipts for that repair.

5/7/2016 The second failure failure resulted in the car stalling in a intersection , with no prior warning. The West Dundee Police were called to control traffic.
The vehicle was towed by SHOCKS TOWING Visa ref, num. [REDACTED]
cost of tow \$80.00

5/9/2016 The car was taken for repair to DUNDEE AUTOMOTIVE . Visa ref. num. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Dundee Automotive , replaced the battery. Cost \$225.00
They said " They replaced the battery and everything was ok."

The car was driven 17 miles back to my daughters house in Hampshire Il.. As she pulled

into her drive , the car electrical system failed again. At that point, it seemed reasonable to assume that the alternator might have not been functioning correctly.

It should be noted here , that when the electrical failure takes place ALL OF THE WARNING LIGHTS ON THE DASH COME ON AND THE ENGINE STOPS . THE POWER WINDOWS AND POWER DOOR LOCKS WILL NOT FUNCTION.

The alternator was replaced and the battery charged. The engine started and all of the warning lights on the dash indicated that everything was normal. No engine codes were detected. The receipt for the alternator will be provided.

The car was driven back to West Dundee to my house a couple of days later. Just as before, the car failed as my daughter approached our driveway. At this time , I checked the fuse box located on top of the battery. I found that the plastic box was damaged by excessive heat and that the 110 amp fuse was charred. I then checked the internet to see about this problem. I typed in 2002 VW Beetle electrical failure. BINGO! Check it out.

Latest repair , new fuse box purchased from on-line souce by daughters boy friend. The new replacement has a 150 amp. fuse. We - my daughters boy friend and I replaced the cable from the alternator to the fuse box with a larger copper cable. I will provide more information concerning the repair in the future. So far the car has been driven a couple of hundred miles in excessive heat , with the AC running and the system has not failed.

I do have the the damaged parts and will send you the parts upon your request. See attached pictures for additional information.

0006 = charred cable
0001 = plastic between fuse compartments is gone
0003 = charred fuses

Please note; I do not know what is causing the fuse box, fuse damage, or cable damage. However, I believe it has something to do with the the parts being inadequate for the application and the air conditioning system load on the electrical system. Resulting in a system overload and failure.

Please stay in touch.


Automotive Technical Service Engineer , Retired

ps I am not part of the law suit.
see attachment

**VOLKSWAGEN NAMED IN CLASS ACTION OVER FUSE
BOX/ALTERNATOR CABLE ASSEMBLY**

Volkswagen

Posted on [August 24, 2012](#)

PICTURE

The complaint against **Volkswagen** was brought on behalf of Florida residents who purchased and/or leased a Volkswagen vehicle for personal, family or household use, which vehicle had or currently has a defective fuse box/alternator cable electrical system that melted or burned, or is at risk of melting or burning, thereby causing or threatening to cause the vehicle to lose power while underway in traffic or to catch fire.

The vehicles affected include (a) the 2003-2005 New Beetle Convertible, and the 1999-2005 New Beetle (the "Vehicles")

As alleged in the complaint, the failure of the fuse box/alternator cable assemblies is not a result of normal wear and tear or a reasonably expected failure rate for new parts, but is a basic design defect that existed at the time of manufacture of each vehicle and is believed to be related to the current carrying capacity of one or more components of the assemblies.

By complaints of its customers, both directly and through its dealers, Volkswagen was on notice that the fuse box/alternator cable assemblies were defective and not fit for their intended purpose of properly and effectively distributing electrical charge to the battery and power to other systems. Volkswagen actively concealed and/or failed to notify the public of the existence and nature of said defects or of the possible safety issues presented by the defects. Volkswagen has not recalled the Vehicles to repair the defects, it has not offered to repair the defects to its customers free of charge, and it has not offered to reimburse owners, present or past, who incurred costs relating to system repairs.

Plaintiffs allege that Volkswagen is responsible and liable for the costs of inspecting and replacing the defective fuse box/alternator cable assemblies.

From: "Brenda CTR Fogle (NHTSA)" <Brenda.Fogle.CTR@dot.gov>

To: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, July 29, 2016 11:37:55 AM

Subject: FW: FW: FW: NHTSA: Follow up to ODI Complaint: ---10884900

Please see the attached copy of your recent complaint and instructions. Please make any necessary edits and return via email to dataquality@dot.gov or fax to [\(202\) 366-1767](tel:(202)366-1767). Due to the volume of complaints we receive and our limited resources, we cannot respond to every complaint.

NHTSA/Office of Defects Investigation





