



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 03-010

Prompted By: Consumer Complaints, Safety Recall 03V-265, IE03-067

Date Opened: 12/17/2003

Date Closed: 03/01/2004

Principal Investigator: Scott Yon

Subject: Brake Light Switch

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America, Inc

Products: Model Year (MY) 1999 to 2002 Volkswagen Jetta

Population: 377,130

Problem Description: Allege that the brake lamps fail to operate properly due to a failure of the brake lamp switch.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	30	124	149
Crashes/Fires:	2	1	3
Injury Incidents:	0	1	1
# Injuries:	0	1	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	18,037	18,037

*Description of Other: Warranty claims for brake light switch replacement.

Action: This recall query is closed, Recall 04V-096.

Engineer: D. Scott Yon *DY* 3/2/04

Date: 03/01/2004

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 03/01/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 03/01/2004

Summary: The number of duplicates between ODI and manufacturer failure reports cannot be determined due to missing and or inaccurate information. The injury noted above was minor.

On February 26, 2004, Volkswagen of America, Inc. (VW) submitted a Defect Notification (per 49CFR573) to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) advising that certain model year (MY) 1999 - 2002 Volkswagen Jetta vehicles manufactured with the same brake light switch as recalled under 03V-265 (MY 1998-2002 New Beetle) are affected by a safety defect. Specifically, if the brake light switch malfunctions, the brake lights could fail to illuminate when the brakes are applied, or could stay illuminated continually even when the brakes are not applied. Either condition results in the inability of the brake lights to notify other motorists of vehicle braking, thus increasing the risk of a rear end collision and occupant injury.

Accordingly, Volkswagen is recalling Jetta vehicles manufactured from May 1998 to November 2001 to inspect and replace free of charge any affected brake light switches. The recall program, VW code "WX," will commence in April 2004.

VRJ
3-2-04