



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 03-020
Prompted By: PE03-021
Date Opened: 10/07/2003
Principal Investigator: Mark Swanson
Subject: Passenger SIR door mounting stud failure

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America, Inc
Products: 1998-2002 Volkswagen Passat
Population: 330,661

Problem Description: The passenger supplemental inflatable restraint door detaches from the instrument panel during airbag deployment.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	0	0	0
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	2	0	2

*Description Of Other: ODI identified one incident vehicle in an insurance lot. A second vehicle was reported by SCI

Action: An engineering analysis has been opened

Engineer: Mark B. Swanson *MBS*
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: ODI opened a preliminary evaluation (PE03-021) based on two reports of failed bolt studs that attach the passenger supplemental inflatable restraint (PSIR) door cover to the instrument panel (IP) on the Volkswagen (VW) Passat (model years 2000, 2002). VW has indicated to ODI that it has no additional reports. VW implemented a process change on March 1, 2002. This process change consisted of changing the bolt application that fastens the PSIR door to the IP from a weld on application to a press on application. VW also changed the material of the bolt. VW stated that the changes were made to ease production by eliminating a welding process. ODI will continue its investigation under this engineering analysis.

10/10/03