



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ03-010
Prompted by: Consumer complaints, safety recall 03V-265, IE03-067
Date opened: 12/17/2003
Principal investigator: Scott Yon
Subject: Brake lamp switch failure

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America, Inc.
Products: Model year (MY) 2000 to 2002 Volkswagen Jetta
Population: 424,000 (estimated)

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

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	23	tbd	23
Crashes/Fires:	2	tbd	2
Injury Incidents:	0	tbd	0
# Injuries:	0	tbd	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	tbd	0
# Fatalities:	0	tbd	0
Other*:	0	tbd	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: A recall query has been opened.

Engineer: D. Scott Yon *DSY* 12/18/03 Date: 12/17/2003
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt Date: 12/17/2003
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter Date: 12/17/2003

Summary: The brake light switch used in the model year (MY) 2000 to 2002 Jetta is of a similar design as the switch used in the Beetle model. The Beetle brake light switch was the subject of NHTSA investigation EA03-002 and safety recall 03V-265. Five of the noted VOQs involve MY 2000, 13 involve MY 2001 and 5 involve MY 2002 vehicles. Two VOQs allege a crash occurred, with no injuries reported. Manufacturer failure reports are to be determined.

Complainants alleged that the brake lights fail to illuminate when the brakes are applied, or remain illuminated when the brakes are not applied, due to a failure of the brake light switch. 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.

A recall query will be opened to investigate the scope and incidence of brake light switch failures and any associated safety consequences.

UKG
12-18-03