



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 04-081
Date Opened: 12/16/2004
Principal Investigator: Peter C. Ong
Subject: Inadvertent Side-Airbag Deployment

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America, Inc
Products: MY 2001-2003 Volkswagen Jetta, Golf and GTI Vehicles
Population: 447,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Alleged side-airbag and side-air curtain deployment without a crash

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	107	0	107
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	18	0	18
# Injuries:	19	0	19
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

*Description Of Other:

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been opened

Engineer: Peter C. Ong P.E.

Date: 12/16/2004

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 12/16/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 12/16/2004

Summary: The subject vehicles are equipped with standard seat mounted side-air bags and side-air curtains for the driver and front passenger seating positions. The side-air bag/curtain is designed to deploy in a side-impact crash to give protection to the occupant.

ODI has received 107 reports alleging that the side-impact airbag/curtain deploys without a side-impact crash. Many reports state no crash or no impact. However, several reports mention vehicle contact with a pothole/curb at the time of deployment.

ODI is aware of 19 injuries reported from 18 owners. One owner reported that both the driver's and the passenger's side-impact airbag/curtain deployed causing 2 minor injuries. Complaints report injuries of bruises, minor cuts and scrapes.

PCO
12/16/04