



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 06-003
Date Opened: 02/27/2006 Date Closed: 07/20/2006
Principal Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Subject: Driver's Side Dash Fire

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America, Inc
Products: 1998-2000 Audi A6, A6 Avant, S6, and S6 Avant
Population: 66,358

Problem Description: Complaints allege that after having the recall remedy (NHTSA number 04V133) performed, a fire started in the driver's side dashboard area.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	9	50	59
Crashes/Fires:	9	50	59
Injury Incidents:	0	2	2
# Injuries:	0	2	2
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	3	3

*Description of Other: Property Damage Claims

Action: This recall query is closed. Volkswagen of America, Inc. is conducting a safety recall (NHTSA recall number: 06V-198).

Engineer: Cynthia Glass

Date: 07/20/2006

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 07/20/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 07/20/2006

Summary: Volkswagen of America, Inc. (VoA) conducted a safety recall (NHTSA recall number 04V133) to add a plastic cover to the top section of the knee bolster crossmember to prevent contact with the headlight switch wiring harness. The scope of the original recall covered model years (MY) 1998 through 2004 with vehicle production dates of August 1997 through December 2004.

The Office of Defects Investigation has received nine complaints alleging that after having the recall remedy performed, a fire started in the driver's side dashboard area. VoA reports that if the plastic cover is not installed properly by the dealers, the headlight switch wiring harness could continue to contact the crossmember, resulting in a short and/or fire in the driver's side dashboard area.

VoA will conduct a new safety recall to add an additional (and larger) cover over both the knee bolster crossmember and the plastic cover assembly installed in the first recall.

All of the NHTSA complaints and all but 3 VoA claims are for MY 1998 through MY 2000. VoA reports that beginning in my 2001, Audi extended the time for the deburring process of the crossmember. VoA was not able to verify the cause of fire in the MY 2001 and later vehicles due to either extensive fire damage or other reason. The rate of fire occurrence is significantly less for the MY 2001 and later vehicles.

The recall covers model years 1998 through 2000 with vehicle production dates of August 1997 through May 2000.

VoA will recall 66,358 my 1998-2000 Audi A6, A6 Avant, S6, and S6 Avant vehicles. ODI is aware of a total of 59 warranty, field and consumer reports for these vehicles. The recall is identified by NHTSA number 06V-198.

7/20/06