



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 07-018
Date Opened: 04/03/2007
Principal Investigator: Andrea Noel
Subject: Vacuum Brake Booster Failure

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America, Inc.
Products: 2002 Volkswagen Passat
Population: 93,736 (estimated)

Problem Description: Water may enter the brake booster and freeze, reducing Vacuum Assist to the Braking System.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	8		
Crashes/Fires:	1		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

*Description of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Andrea Noel *A.N.*
Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received eight consumer complaints alleging abnormal brake operation due to water entering the brake booster and freezing in Model Year (MY) 2002 Volkswagen Passat vehicles. The complaints allege that the freezing resulted in various effects on brake operation, including: difficulty depressing the brake pedal; failure of the brake pedal to return when released, slowing or immobilizing the vehicle; and increased braking effort. One complainant indicated that, while driving up an inclined driveway into a garage, the brake pedal would only move slightly when depressed and the vehicle crashed into a wall. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect.