



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-008

Date Opened: 01/31/2008

Principal Investigator: Lawrence Hershman

Subject: Fuel Tank Leak

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America., Inc

Products: 2002-2003 Volkswagen Passat 4Motion (AWD)

Population: 26,450 (estimated)

Problem Description: Fuel leaks from the top of the fuel tank.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	10		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other:	0		

Description of Other:

Action: Open a Preliminary Evaluation.

Engineer: Lawrence L. Hershman LHH

Date: 01/31/2008

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 01/31/2008

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 01/31/2008

Summary:

ODI has received 10 complaints of fuel leaking from Model Year 2002-2003 4Motion (AWD) 6-cylinder VW Passats. The complainants were alerted by the strong smell of gasoline, usually when the tank was more than half full. Some complainants also found leaking gasoline dripping under the car. Two complainants specified gas leaking at approximately 20 drops per minute.

The leaks appear to occur when one of the three plastic vent valves (nipples) on the top of the fuel tank cracks. Both the tank and the vent valves are made of plastic. Complainants report that the repair required replacing the fuel tank.