



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 08-012
Date Opened: 02/15/2008
Principal Investigator: Peter Ong
Subject: Front Air Bag Crash Sensor Failure

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America, Inc.
Products: 2003 and 2004 VW New Beetles
Population: 104,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: Failure of the front crash sensor(s) can reduce the crash sensing performance leading to reduced air bag protection in certain frontal crashes.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|---------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints: | 5 | | |
| Crashes/Fires: | 0 | | |
| Injury Incidents: | 0 | | |
| # Injuries: | 0 | | |
| Fatality Incidents: | 0 | | |
| # Fatalities: | 0 | | |
| Other*: | 0 | | |

*Description of Other:

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation

Engineer: Peter Ong

Date: 02/15/2007

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 02/15/2007

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/15/2007

Summary: In certain Model Years 2003 through 2004 VW New Beetle vehicles, the frontal crash sensor may malfunction and can reduce the crash sensing ability in frontal crashes. As a result, frontal protection may be compromised in certain crash conditions.

ODI has received five consumer complaints identifying the crash sensor as the cause of the air bag warning light illumination. VW also has provided early warning data to the agency regarding warranty claims and field reports on the crash sensor within the air bag system.

A Preliminary Evaluation (PE) has been open to investigate this issue.