



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-022
Date Opened: 05/04/2009
Principal Investigator: Christopher Lash
Subject: Transmission fluid leak

Manufacturer: Volkswagen of America
Products: 2009 Passat CC with automatic transmission
Population: 24,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: Automatic transmission fluid line can be cut by the coolant fan, which can cause fluid leakage, fumes and is a potential fire hazard.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

*Description of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Christopher Lash *SL*
Div. Chief: Jeffrey Quandt *SL*
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

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Summary:

ODI has received a vehicle owner questionnaire alleging a large transmission fluid leak shortly after vehicle purchase, with just 47 miles of service. Based on a dealer inspection, the leak was from a cut in the hose that carries automatic transmission fluid to the ATF cooler caused by contact from the radiator cooling fan. The complaint alleges that the failure resulted in a loss of motive power and presented a risk of fire. ODI also identified field report data related to the alleged defect in Early Warning information submitted by Volkswagen. A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect.