



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 10-027
Date Opened: 07/26/2010
Investigator: Cynthia Glass
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Engine Compartment Fire

Date Closed: 02/07/2011
Reviewer: Scott Yon

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: VOLKSWAGEN OF AMERICA, INC
Products: 2002-2003 Volkswagen Passat
Population: 199,066

Problem Description: Complainants report an engine compartment fire that may be related to an ignition coil failure.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

| | ODI | Manufacturer | Total |
|----------------------------|-----|--------------|-------|
| Complaints: | 20 | 114 | 134 |
| Crashes/Fires: | 11 | 114 | 125 |
| Injury Incidents: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fatality Incidents: | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other*: | 0 | 35 | 35 |

*Description of Other: Warranty claims - all warranty reports are fire claims

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis, EA11-002.

Summary:

ODI has received 11 complaints alleging that a fire started in the engine compartment of the vehicle that may be related to ignition coil failure, and 9 complaints of ignition coil failure that did not result in a fire. Reports state that the vehicle hesitated or lost power, and the check engine or dashboard lights illuminated. The vehicles were repaired by replacing the faulty ignition coil(s). Some of the complaints indicated that the ignition coils were replaced more than once.

The scope of PE10-027 focused on Model Years (MY)2002-2003 Passat vehicles. Volkswagen provided data regarding their analysis of the vehicle fires and faulty ignition coils for these vehicles as well as other MY Passat vehicles.

ODI needs to further investigate this issue. To facilitate the acquisition and analysis of additional information, this investigation has been upgraded to an Engineering Analysis, EA11-002.