



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** PE 13-036  
**Date Opened:** 11/04/2013  
**Investigator:** Michael Lee  
**Approver:** Frank Borris  
**Subject:** Partial Loss of Exterior Lights  
**Date Closed:** 02/28/2014  
**Reviewer:** Scott Yon

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Volkswagen of America, Inc.  
**Products:** 2009-2011 Volkswagen Tiguan  
**Population:** 62,155  
**Problem Description:** Partial loss of the exterior lights due to an overheated electrical fuse.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
<b>Complaints:</b>	54	400	454
<b>Crashes/Fires:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Injury Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Fatality Incidents:</b>	0	0	0
<b>Other*:</b>	0	4,647	4,647

\*Description of Other: Warranty Claims

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** Close this Preliminary Evaluation (recall 13V-569).

### Summary:

Volkswagen Group of America (VW) is conducting a safety recall of approximately 62,155 model year (MY) 2009-2011 Volkswagen Tiguan vehicles to address a partial loss of the exterior lighting (see NHTSA recall 13V-569 for more information). These vehicles' exterior lighting system is protected by two separate fuses contained in a fuse box located in the engine compartment. According to VW, high thermal cycling and soft-coated fuse coating material used at the F16 (also referred to as SB16) location causes movement between the fuse blade and socket, resulting in abrasions on the fuse coating material. This increases resistance and results in overheating of the fuse and disruption of electrical current flow to roughly half of the vehicle's exterior lighting circuits. Examples include loss of one of each of the following: low beam headlight, high beam headlight, brake light, and turn signal light involving the front and rear of the vehicle.

VW has stated that the subject F16 fuse in the Tiguan model was used in several other Volkswagen models. According to VW, the temperature of the vehicle's engine and the fuse box varies by vehicle model. ODI found that the complaint and warranty rates for the MY 2009-2010 Tiguan are more than four times greater than that of MY 2009-2010 Volkswagen Jetta sedans. ODI is aware of VW's plan to take a service action of some, but not all, of the other vehicle models. The action will cover MY 2009-2010 Jetta sedan and MY 2009 GTI vehicles. ODI will monitor complaints to NHTSA on all other Volkswagen models equipped with the same subject fuse and take further action if warranted.

The ODI reports cited above can be reviewed online at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID> under the following identification numbers: 10362206, 10471503, 10490408, 10501271, 10504495, 10508638, 10512642, 10520573, 10521147, 10522909, 10523748, 10526032, 10534679, 10538004, 10538410, 10543629, 10544805, 10545540, 10547334, 10547530, 10547775, 10549584, 10550140, 10550903, 10551486, 10551503, 10551538, 10551776, 10551816, 10551848, 10551853, 10552153, 10552322, 10552740, 10552811, 10552866, 10553122,

10553299, 10554352, 10554441, 10554443, 10554730, 10554890, 10555047, 10555080, 10555527, 10555540,  
10555988, 10556475, 10558014, 10559441, 10559447, 10561642, 10562693.