INFORMATION REDACTED PURSUANT TOTHE FREEDOM
OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C.552(B)(6)

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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

December 18, 2019

VIA Email – Delivery and Read Receipt Requested

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
Attn: Chris Sandvig
3800 Hamlin Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

NEF-107CL
EQ19-002
19E-080

Subject: Safety Recall 19E-080 for Takata NADI Inflators

Dear Mr. Sandvig:

Based on information in the November 26th, 2019 recall filing by Takata (TK Global LLC), number 19E-080, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA), Office of Defects Investigation (ODI), Recall Management Division (RMD) is conducting an equipment query (EQ) investigation, number EQ19-002, in relation to certain Takata Non-Azide Driver air bag Inflators (NADI) manufactured between May 1, 1995 and August 31, 1999 and used in some brands of 1995-2000 vehicles,

Takata (TK Global LLC) reported to NHTSA that it sold approximately 1,400,000 of these Non-Azide Driver air bag Inflators to certain automobile manufacturers for possible installation. The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of a potential safety defect and to remind you of your responsibility under Federal Law.

Manufacturers of motor vehicles sold, offered for sale, delivered, or imported into the United States must notify NHTSA, within five (5) business days, when they first learn a safety defect or a noncompliance with a Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard exists in one of their vehicles. In the case of a defect or noncompliance in original equipment installed in the vehicles of more than one manufacturer, notification to NHTSA must be made by the original equipment manufacturer as to the equipment item, and by each vehicle manufacturer as to those vehicles it manufactured in which the defective equipment was installed. The content of that notification is specified in 49 U.S.C. 573.6, *Defect and Noncompliance Information Report*.

The notification and information report must be submitted electronically through the agency's Recalls Portal. To access the portal and register as a manufacturer, go to: http://www.safercar.gov/Vehicle+Manufacturers and use the appropriate link on the left side of the page. Questions concerning how to register for an account and other issues associated with use of the portal may be directed to the Recalls Portal Helpdesk toll free at 1-888-719-9220 or by email at recalls.helpdesk@dot.gov**. Hard and E-mailed copies are not accepted. Please do not send them to this office.**

We are also reminding your company that it is required to issue timely notification to owners who may have purchased vehicles with these Takata Non-Azide Driver airbag Inflators (NADI). In advance of issuing its owner notification letters, your company must submit a draft of its letter to NHTSA for review. Your company is reminded that this letter must meet the requirements of 49 CFR 577.5, "Notification pursuant to a manufacturer's decision." Your company is further reminded that notifications must be sent to those persons registered under State law as the owners of the vehicles. If particular owners cannot be reasonably ascertained by State records, notifications must be sent to those persons you identify as the most recent purchasers. We are also reminding your company that it is required to notify dealers and distributors as required by 49 CFR 577.13.

Please further note that you must file six quarterly recall status reports as required by 49 CFR 573.7. These reports are to be filed on consecutive yearly quarters beginning with the quarter in which notification to owners begins.

Your Company's use of the Affected Products

If your company has not received any Takata Non-Azide Driver air bag Inflators, or if your products are not available to be sold, offered for sale, delivered, or imported into the United States, please so state.

If your company did use Takata Non-Azide Driver air bag Inflators in products marketed for sale in the United States, please reply with a spreadsheet list of the Year/Make/Model combinations, including the estimated populations, if known. Please provide this information by **Friday, January 3, 2020**.

Making a Defect Decision

If your company does not agree that the vehicle products it manufactured with these Takata Non-Azide Driver airbag inflators are defective, and therefore will not conduct a safety recall of the inflators, you must submit a written response explaining that decision and include all supporting documents, analysis, and/or test reports.

If your company has not yet gathered enough evidence to make a determination that the subject air bag inflators present an unreasonable risk to motor vehicle safety, reply with a detailed work plan including the benchmark dates required to make the determination.

DO NOT submit your responses or any materials through the Recalls Portal. Rather, send correspondence and materials directly to Choon Lee of my staff at choon.lee@dot.gov.

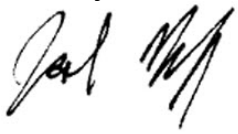
This letter is being sent to your company pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30166, which authorizes NHTSA to conduct any investigation that may be necessary to enforce Chapter 301 of Title 49. Your company's failure to respond promptly and fully to this letter could subject your company to civil penalties pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30165 or lead to an action for injunctive relief pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30163.

If your company claims that any of the information or documents provided in response to this information request constitute confidential commercial material within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), or are protected from disclosure pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1905, your company must submit supporting information together with the materials that are the subject of the confidentiality request, in accordance with 49 CFR Part 512, as amended (69 Fed. Reg. 21409 et seq; April 21, 2004), to the Office of Chief Counsel (NCC-111), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Room W41-227, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20590. Your company is required to submit two copies of the documents containing allegedly confidential information (except only one copy of blueprints) and one copy of the documents from which information claimed to be confidential has been deleted. Please remember that the word "CONFIDENTIAL" must appear at the top of each page containing information claimed to be confidential, and the information must be clearly identified in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 512.6.

Whether your company is filing a recall notice, or filing an explanation as to why its products are not involved in this matter, that information is due by **January 17, 2020**. In your response, please be certain to include a reference to this matter's identification number which is **EQ19-002.**

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Choon Lee at (202) 366-0388 or by e-mail at choon.lee@dot.gov.

Sincerely,



Josh Neff
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation

Enclosure