

VOLKSWAGEN



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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

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February 26, 2004

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

04V-096 ① of ③

**Subject: Notification of Recall Pursuant to 49 CFR 573 (2004)
1999 - 2002 Model Year Volkswagen Jetta Vehicles**

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

This information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR 573 (2004)), and in response to RQ 03-010.

573.6 (c) (1) Manufacturer's Name
Volkswagen de México, S.A. de C.V.

Importer
Volkswagen of America, Inc. (VWoA)

573.6 (c) (2) Identification of Vehicles

Make : Volkswagen

Line : Jetta (Fourth Generation)

Model Years : 1999 - 2002

Month/Year
of Manufacture : May 1998 through November 2001

VIN Numbers
of Affected
Vehicles : 3VWSC29M5XM001019 - 3VWSB69M82M098212

Other
Identification : Vehicles equipped with the same brake light switches as those in
voluntary recall 03V-265 on 1998-2002 New Beetle vehicles (part
numbers 1J0946511A and 1J0945511B).

- 573.6 (c) (3) **Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect**
An estimated total of 377,130 vehicles are affected by this recall in the U.S.
- 573.6 (c) (4) **Percentage of Vehicles Actually Containing Defect**
VWcA is unable to estimate the percentage of vehicles in the U.S. that are subject to this defect.
- 673.6 (c) (5) **Description of Defect**
The affected 1999 - 2002 model year Volkswagen Jetta vehicles may have a brake light switch that may malfunction. If this happens, the brake lights could:
- become inoperative, or
 - come on and stay on, even though the vehicle is parked.
- 573.6 (c) (6) **Basis for Determination**
In response to NHTSA RQ 03-010 related to voluntary recall 03V-285 on 1998-2002 New Beetles produced by Volkswagen of Mexico, Volkswagen has identified a similar trend of brake light switch failure in the affected 1999 - 2002 model year Volkswagen Jetta vehicles equipped with cruise control.
- During an analysis of the affected 1999 - 2002 model year Jetta vehicles with the alleged defect, Volkswagen identified:
- 124 consumer complaints alleging the brake lights failed to operate properly due to a malfunction of the brake light switch. VW has identified one crash with minor injuries relating to the alleged defect based on claims against the manufacturer.
 - No fires or fatality incidents based on claims against the manufacturer.
 - No property damage claims, third party arbitrations, or lawsuits related to the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.
 - A total of 18,037 warranty claims for the replacement of the brake switch, regardless of the reason for which the component was replaced.
- 573.6 (c) (7) **Noncompliance Test Result**
Not applicable
- 673.6 (c) (8) **Proposed Remedial Program**
Volkswagen plans to notify owners of affected vehicles and request that the owners bring their vehicle to an authorized VW dealer so that the affected brake light switches can be inspected and, if necessary will be replaced without charge. Pending parts availability, mailing dates are anticipated as follows:
- Dealers: In or before April 2004
Owners: In or before April 2004
- 673.6 (c) (9) **Submission of Communications**
A representative copy of all bulletins and other communications sent to dealers and owners will be submitted within five (5) days of dealer/owner notification.

- 573.6 (c) (10) **Proposed Owner Letter**
A proposed owner notification letter will be submitted to you within the next four weeks for your review.
- 573.6 (c) (11) **Manufacturer's Recall Code**
Volkswagen has assigned the code "WX" to this recall.

Sincerely,



John Maddox
Product Compliance Officer