

Volkswagen of America, Inc.

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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION



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May 14, 2004

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

04V-233
(2 pages)

**Subject: Notification of Recall Pursuant to 49 CFR 573 (2004)
2004 Model Year Volkswagen Touareg Vehicles
Check Rivet of Belt Buckle**

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))

573.6 (c) (1) **Manufacturer's Name**
Volkswagen Slovakia a. s.

Importer
Volkswagen of America, Inc. (VWoA)

573.6 (c) (2) **Identification of Vehicles**
Make : Volkswagen
Line : Touareg
Model Years : 2004
Month/Year
of Manufacture : April 2003 through December 2003
VIN Numbers : WVGZC67L64D000001 until WVGEM77L74D046762
of Affected (start of production until production date of December 3, 2003)
Vehicles

**Other
Identification** : none

573.6 (c) (3) **Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect**
An estimated total of 24,289 vehicles are affected by this recall in the U.S.

573.6 (c) (4) **Percentage of Vehicles Actually Containing Defect**
VWoA believes that less than 1% of vehicles in the U.S. may be subject to this defect.

- 573.6 (c) (5) **Description of Defect**
The affected 2004 model year Volkswagen Touareg vehicles may have a rear seat safety belt latch attachment bolt that may be insufficiently riveted, which may result in a reduced capability of the belt latch to withstand the applied loads.
- 573.6 (c) (6) **Basis for Determination**
As the result of normal production surveillance at the belt latch supplier, Autoliv Hungary, individual latches were found incorrectly riveted. Autoliv determined that the incomplete riveting occurred during production when a part remained in the riveting machine at the time it was turned off. When the machine was turned on again (e.g., at the beginning of a shift) the incompletely riveted part was ejected and became mixed with properly riveted parts. Since December 3, 2003, a 100% check of the belt latch was introduced into Touareg production on the assembly line. Later software modifications and an additional sensor were introduced in the riveting process to ensure that incompletely riveted latches cannot remain in the machine when it is turned off. Subsequent VWAG analysis determined that the insufficient riveting may result in a reduced capability to withstand the applied loads.
- 573.6 (c) (7) **Noncompliance Test Result**
Not applicable
- 573.6 (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 belt buckle can be inspected and, if necessary, replaced without charge. Pending parts availability, mailing dates are anticipated as follows:
Dealers: In or about June 2004
Owners: In or about June 2004
- 573.6 (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 "VN" to this recall.

Sincerely,



John Maddox
Product Compliance Officer