



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

*April 8, 2008*

MR. JOHN MADDOX  
PRODUCT COMPLIANCE /TREAD OFFICER  
VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA, INC.  
3800 HAMLIN ROAD  
AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326

NVS-215dgl  
08V-156

SUBJECT: UNDERBODY HEAT SHIELDS/FUEL SYSTEM COMPONENTS

DEAR MR. MADDOX:

This letter serves to acknowledge Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety defect in the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 30119.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
VOLKSWAGEN/PASSAT/1999-2005

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 08V-156

**Mfg's Report Date:** April 4, 2008

Components: FUEL SYSTEM, GASOLINE: DELIVERY

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 412,000

**Summary:**  
VOLKSWAGEN IS RECALLING 412,000 MY 1999-2005 PASSAT (5TH GENERATION) VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSIONS. THESE VEHICLES MAY HAVE AN UNDERBODY HEAT SHIELD THAT CAN BECOME DAMAGED.

**Consequence:**

IF THIS OCCURS, THE HEAT SHIELD MAY CONTACT THE EXHAUST SYSTEM, WHICH CAN RESULT IN A VEHICLE FIRE. IN ADDITION, IT MAY HAVE A FUEL LINE (1.8T ENGINES ONLY) OR FUEL TANK VENTILATION VALVE (4MOTION ALL WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLES ONLY) THAT MAY LEAK DUE TO FRACTURE. A FUEL LEAK IN THE PRESENCE OF AN IGNITION SOURCE CAN LEAD TO A VEHICLE FIRE.

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WILL INSTALL ADDITIONAL UNDERBODY HEAT SHIELDS TO COVER THE POSSIBLY DAMAGED AREAS AND FLASH THE 1.8T ENGINES WITH A PRECAUTIONARY SOFTWARE UPDATE. DEALERS WILL ALSO INSPECT AND ADJUST THE FUEL LINE ROUTING AND REPLACE COMPONENTS IF NECESSARY FREE OF CHARGE. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT MAY 30, 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT VOLKSWAGEN AT 1-800-822-8987.

**Notes:**

CUSTOMERS MAY ALSO CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), OR GO TO [HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV](http://www.safercar.gov).

The information in your defect report appears to satisfy the requirements of 49 CFR 573.6 except for the following items:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on or before 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contacts for this recall will be Pat Wallace or Delia Lopez, who may be reached by phone at 202-366-5232 or 202-366-9525 or by email at [Patricia.wallace@dot.gov](mailto:Patricia.wallace@dot.gov), [Delia.lopez@dot.gov](mailto:Delia.lopez@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you for successful completion of this recall campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Wallace for".

George H. Person  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement