

Part 573 Safety Recall Report**16V-035****Manufacturer Name :** Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.**Submission Date :** JAN 22, 2016**NHTSA Recall No. :** 16V-035**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 53B8**Manufacturer Information :**

Manufacturer Name : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Address : 3800 Hamlin Road

Auburn Hills MI 48326

Company phone : 1-800-822-8987

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 825

Estimated percentage with defect : 100

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle : 2011-2015 Volkswagen Touareg Hybrid

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : Touareg Hybrid - Hybrid Battery Tray Drain

Production Dates : MAR 20, 2010 - APR 11, 2015

VIN (Vehicle Identification Number) Range

Begin : WVGFG9BP1BD000066

End : WVGEG9BP6FD006902

 Not sequential VINs**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : The rear hatch area where the hybrid battery tray is located does not sufficiently drain. Because of this, any water entering this area remains below the hatch floor cover in the battery tray and is not easily visible to customers. If too much water collects in this area, it could cause an electrical short in the high voltage battery.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : An electrical short in the high voltage battery caused by significant water intrusion may lead to a vehicle fire.

Description of the Cause : Rear hatch area/hybrid battery tray has no drain valves to allow accumulating water to drain.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Vehicle may detect beginning short in the battery (isolation fault) and deactivated electrical drive system, accompanied by a warning that high voltage system was shut down. (Illumination of hybrid drive system malfunction light).

Supplier Identification :**Component Manufacturer**

Name : Volkswagen AG

Address : Berliner Ring 2

Wolfsburg FOREIGN STATES 38436

Country : Germany

Chronology :

In CY 2014, two single events of overheating hybrid batteries in Touareg Hybrid vehicles occurred overseas (outside of the United States). These two failures were attributed to vehicle misuse (exceeding the vehicle fording depth, and exposure to heavy rain while rear lid was left open).

In April 2015, engineering implemented a design change for model year 2016 Touareg Hybrid vehicles, adding a drain valve in the rear hatch area to address/mitigate such vehicle misuse events.

During the summer months of CY 2015, additional incidents occurred in foreign countries, and because of this the issue was discussed at Volkswagen's product safety committee and analysis was re-initiated.

During fall 2015 analysis found that water intrusion was not always caused by external influence. Individual events were traced to misassembled sunroof drains and rear lid seals.

In September 2015 the matter was reviewed and discussed in the product safety committee again, and additional analysis was ordered.

During late fall of CY 2015, it was discovered that a single case where a U.S. vehicles showed indication of water intrusion (insulation faults were detected in diagnostic logs). No overheating incidents have occurred in the United States to date.

On January 13, 2016, the matter was reviewed in Volkswagen's product safety committee again and the committee decided to implement a safety recall and take precautionary field measures to prevent potential overheating/fire incidents.

Date of determination: January 13, 2016

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : A drain valve will be fitted in the tray below the hybrid battery to allow water to drain from the rear hatch area.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : N/A (body work necessary)

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : Drain valve was introduced into production in April 2015.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers: Anticipated January 2016

Customers: Anticipated February 2016

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR - NR

* NR - Not Reported