Part 573 Safety Recall Report   16V-647

Manufacturer Name :	Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
Submission Date :	SEP 02, 2016
NHTSA Recall No. :	16V-647
Manufacturer Recall No. :	TBD

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Address : 3800 Hamlin Road
Auburn Hills MI 48326

Company phone : 1-800-893-5298

Population :

Number of potentially involved : NR
Estimated percentage with defect : NR

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2015-2016 Volkswagen Golf/GTI/Golf Sportwagen
Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES
Body Style : ALL
Power Train : NR
Descriptive Information : Production Dates, VIN Ranges and Number Potentially Involved: TBD
PZEV vehicles only
Production Dates : JAN 01, 1900 - JAN 01, 1900
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR   End : NR   ☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2015-2016 Audi A3 Sedan, A3 Cabrio
Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES
Body Style : ALL
Power Train : NR
Descriptive Information : Production Dates, VIN Ranges and Number Potentially Involved: TBD
1.8T FWD
Production Dates : JAN 01, 1900 - JAN 01, 1900
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR   End : NR   ☐ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : The suction pump inside the fuel tank designed to purge fuel from the Evaporative Emissions (EVAP) system may be compromised resulting in fuel flowing directly into the EVAP system. If this happens, fuel could accumulate in the EVAP system and leak through the charcoal canister filter element.

FMVSS 1 : NR
FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : Leaking fuel, in the presence of an ignition source, may result in a fire.

Description of the Cause :	Due to a manufacturing issue, seal rings inside a suction pump in the fuel tank were assembled with too much tension. This could have pre-damaged the seals, potentially leading to fuel ingress into the EVAP system. Should the EVAP system be flooded, fuel could leak through the charcoal canister filter element.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	Customers could experience re-fueling issues (early stopping fuel nozzles, spillback) when fuel accumulated in the EVAP system. Fuel smell may also be noticed by the driver/vehicle occupants.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	ALFMEIER PRÄZISION AG
Address :	Industriestr. 5
	Treuchtlingen FOREIGN STATES 91757
Country :	Germany

Chronology :

July/Aug 2015: First failures were reported from the field and investigation was initiated.
Oct/Nov. 2015: Decrease of reported failures was noted and early failure of a limited number of components assumed. Failures were traced to automatic assembly process at supplier, possibly pre-damaging seal rings.
Nov 2015: Assembly process was changed at supplier, field monitoring concluded.
Apr/May 2016: Increase of failures observed in the field. Vast majority reported from Puerto Rico. Analysis initiated as to why only Puerto Rico seems affected.
June/July 2016: High amount of aromatic compounds in Puerto Rico fuel identified as cause for excess failures. Additional failures observed in mainland USA.
August 26, 2016: The matter was brought to Volkswagen's product safety committee and the presence of a defect was determined.
August 29, 2016: The matter was brought to Audi's product safety committee and the presence of a defect was determined.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	The potentially affected suction pump inside the fuel tank will be replaced. Reimbursement should not occur as vehicles are still covered under New Vehicle Limited Warranty.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	Supplier has changed from automated to careful manual assembly which removed the risk of pre-damage during assembly.
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	Parts went into Audi vehicle production in February 2016 and Volkswagen implemented into vehicle production in March 2016.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Recall notification: TBD

Planned Dealer Notification Date : NR   - NR

Planned Owner Notification Date : NR ‑ NR

* NR - Not Reported