

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

18V-380

Manufacturer Name : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Submission Date : JUN 07, 2018

NHTSA Recall No. : 18V-380

Manufacturer Recall No. : 69X1



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 : 54,537

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2018 Volkswagen Atlas

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population was determined based upon vehicles built without owners manual information advising customers on the child restraint size limitation/restrictions for the second row center seating position. The limitation/restrictions are necessary to ensure a child restraint does not cause damage to the adjacent safety belt buckles. This recall applies only to vehicles equipped with a bench style seat in the second row.

Production Dates : NOV 17, 2016 - JUN 05, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : 1V2NR2CA2JC500090 **End :** 1V2KR2CA8JC577159 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : If a child restraint with a larger than recommended base is installed in the center position of the second row bench seat, it may damage both the center and adjacent outboard safety belt buckles.

FMVSS 1 : NR

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : A damaged safety belt buckle can release unexpectedly, increasing the risk of injury in a crash.

Description of the Cause : Child restraints with a base wider than 320mm (12.6 inches) have the most potential to cause damage. Advice regarding child restraint selection for use in the second row bench center position (due to that seating position being narrower than the outboard positions) is missing from the vehicle owner's

manual.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : In some cases there may be little discernible indication to the customer that the function of the seat belt buckle is inhibited.

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc
Address : 3800 Hamlin Road
Auburn Hills MICHIGAN 48326
Country : United States

Chronology :

May 2017: A Volkswagen employee reports a damaged second row bench seat safety belt buckle; this is reviewed/analyzed as a single incident case.

September/October 2017: Volkswagen begins receiving field complaints about damaged second row bench seat safety belt buckles. An investigation into the cause is started, using various child restraints and testing to attempt to reproduce failures and understand effects.

April 18, 2018: The topic was presented to Pre-Product Safety Committee at Volkswagen AG, and additional information was requested.

May 30, 2018: The topic was presented to the Volkswagen AG Product Safety Committee where the determination of defect and recall decision was made.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : At no cost to customers, the second row bench seat center and adjacent left (outboard) safety belt buckles will be inspected and, if necessary, replaced. Volkswagen will also provide an owner's manual supplement addressing child safety and child restraints.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : If a damaged safety belt buckle is found during inspection, it will be replaced; the remedy component has the same part number than the recalled component: Seat belt buckle with part No. 3CN.857.739 or 3CN.857.739.A, depending on which buckle is damaged. Volkswagen will also provide an owner's manual supplement addressing child safety and child restraints.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : 06/04/2018: Update of the owner's manual

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : Dealers: on or before August 02, 108
Owners: on or before August 03, 2018

Planned Dealer Notification Date : AUG 02, 2018 - AUG 02, 2018

Planned Owner Notification Date : AUG 03, 2018 - AUG 03, 2018

* NR - Not Reported