Part 573 Safety Recall Report 19V-474

Manufacturer Name: Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
Submission Date: JUN 19, 2019
NHTSA Recall No.: 19V-474
Manufacturer Recall No.: 69Z4

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: 138,896
Estimated percentage with defect: 100%

Vehicle Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Body Style</th>
<th>Power Train</th>
<th>VIN Range 1</th>
<th>Descriptive Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle 1</td>
<td>2016-2016 Audi A3 e-tron</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>WAUTPBFF3GA012838 - WAUSPBFF3GA167871</td>
<td>The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts. A3 e-Tron vehicle count: 3561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle 2</td>
<td>2015-2016 Audi A3 Cabriolet</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>WAU3FLFF7F1020223 - WAU78LFF3G1117495</td>
<td>The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts. A3 Cabriolet vehicle count: 7491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle 3</td>
<td>2015-2016 Audi S3 Sedan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>NR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The information contained in this report was submitted pursuant to 49 CFR §573
### Descriptive Information:
The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts.

#### Audi S3 Sedan vehicle count: 8077

**Production Dates:** JUN 10, 2014 - JUL 25, 2016

**VIN Range 1:** Begin: WAUHFHFF0F1019540  End: WAUB1GFF1G1118599  ✔ Not sequential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2017-2019 Audi A3 Cabriolet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Style:</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Descriptive Information:**
The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts.

**A3 Cabriolet vehicle count: 3917**

**Production Dates:** SEP 12, 2016 - MAY 10, 2019

**VIN Range 1:** Begin: WAUW8LFF0H1014161  End: WAU7ELFF1K1031233  ✔ Not sequential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2017-2019 Audi A3 Sedan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Style:</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Descriptive Information:**
The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts.

**A3 sedan vehicle count: 39,003**

**Production Dates:** JUL 07, 2016 - MAR 14, 2019

**VIN Range 1:** Begin: WAUJ8GFF9H1003158  End: WAUBEGFF5K1029101  ✔ Not sequential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2015-2016 Audi A3 Sedan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Style:</td>
<td>NR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Descriptive Information:**
The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts.

**A3 sedan vehicle count: 66,183**

**Production Dates:** NOV 28, 2013 - JUL 28, 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vehicle</th>
<th>Model Year</th>
<th>Vehicle Type</th>
<th>Body Style</th>
<th>Power Train</th>
<th>Descriptive Information</th>
<th>Production Dates</th>
<th>VIN Range 1: Begin</th>
<th>VIN Range 1: End</th>
<th>Not sequential</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2019-2019</td>
<td>Audi RS3</td>
<td></td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts. Audi RS3 vehicle count: 526</td>
<td>MAR 08, 2019 - APR 30, 2019</td>
<td>WAUBFGFF5F1000653</td>
<td>WAUB8GFXG1118631</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Audi A3 e-Tron</td>
<td></td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts. A3 e-Tron vehicle count: 6061</td>
<td>AUG 24, 2016 - AUG 22, 2018</td>
<td>WAUTPBFF5HA033496</td>
<td>WAUUPBFXJA155314</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2017-2018</td>
<td>Audi RS3</td>
<td></td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts. Audi RS3 vehicle count: 2120</td>
<td>MAR 28, 2017 - JUL 13, 2018</td>
<td>WAUBWGFF6H1900082</td>
<td>WAUBWGFF1J1909097</td>
<td>✔</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2019-2019</td>
<td>Audi A3 Sedan</td>
<td></td>
<td>NR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Descriptive Information: The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until early CW19/2019 when the new connector and cable routing was introduced in production. Vehicles not included in the recall are already equipped with the optimized parts.
A3 Sportback vehicle count: 1957

Production Dates: MAR 01, 2019 - APR 30, 2019
VIN Range 1: Begin: WAUAUGFF8KA062530 End: WAUBEGFF4KA095445  Not sequential

Description of Defect:

Description of the Defect: Due to a mostly temporary loose contact at the connector, the passenger occupant detection system (PODS) may detect a malfunction and switch off the passenger airbag even though the seat may be occupied.
As designed, a warning light in the instrument panel comes on together with an acoustic warning sound and an error message is displayed in the instrument cluster. The airbag indicator light shows "passenger airbag off".

FMVSS 1: 208 - Occupant crash protection
FMVSS 2: NR

Description of the Safety Risk: In the event of a crash there would be an increased risk of injury to the occupant seated in the front passenger seat if the passenger airbag is switched off/not working.

Description of the Cause: Widening of the plug-in contacts at the connector underneath the seat may lead to sporadic loose contacts and incorrect electrical contacting. The system detects an error and turns off the passenger airbag. This error occurs mostly sporadic and for a limited amount of time. When the error disappears and the system recognizes the correct contacting again, the passenger airbag works again as intended, there is no action/interaction necessary by the customer.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur: Should a malfunction occur, vehicle occupants will be alerted of a PODS system problem by illumination of the airbag warning light, an acoustic warning sound, an error message displayed in the instrument cluster and by the status of the Passenger Airbag OFF indicator light. In this case the customer should take his vehicle as soon as possible to a dealership for inspection/repair.

Supplier Identification:

Component Manufacturer
Name: IEE S.A.
Address: 1, rue du Campus
Bissen FOREIGN STATES 7795
Country: Luxembourg
Chronology:
March 2018: Analysis and investigation was started due to an increased amount of field reports regarding replacements of the passenger occupant detection system.
March - October 2018: Intense investigation regarding failure pattern and root cause with supplier. Analysis of new and field parts.
October 2018: Issue was reported to the Product Safety Committee. Additional research and testing was tasked.
October 2018-April 2019: Further testing, investigation of possible influences and detailed statistical analysis. In parallel a new more robust connector and optimized cable routing was developed for vehicles in the field.
April 2019: Probability assessment based on all the data available showed a very low probability for a sporadically deactivated passenger airbag system in case of an actual accident.
May 2019: Discussion with NHTSA based on the results of our investigations and the probability assessment.
June 12, 2019: The Audi Product Safety Committee makes the determination of a defect and decides a voluntary safety recall.

Description of Remedy:

Description of Remedy Program: At no cost to customers, a new, more robust connector and optimized cable routing will be installed under the front passenger seat. Audi will offer a reimbursement program under this recall.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component: Cable routing to the electronic control unit has been optimized to avoid sharp bending and therefore relieve the connector from any preload or sideforce. In addition, a new, more robust connector has been developed.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production: The new cable routing and connector were introduced in production at the supplier in CW 18/2019 and in vehicle production at the Audi factories in CW 19/2019.

Recall Schedule:

Description of Recall Schedule: On or before 08/18/2019

Planned Dealer Notification Date: AUG 18, 2019 - AUG 18, 2019
Planned Owner Notification Date: AUG 18, 2019 - AUG 18, 2019

* NR - Not Reported