

# 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 :****Population :**

Manufacturer Name : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Number of potentially involved : 138,896

Address : 3800 Hamlin Road

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Auburn Hills MI 48326

Company phone : 1-800-893-5298

**Vehicle Information :**

Vehicle 1 : 2016-2016 Audi A3 e-tron

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

**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 e-Tron vehicle count: 3561

Production Dates : JUL 13, 2015 - OCT 24, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUTPBFF3GA012838 End : WAUSPBFF3GA167871  Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2015-2016 Audi A3 Cabriolet

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

**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: 7491

Production Dates : JUN 05, 2014 - JUL 02, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAU3FLFF7F1020223 End : WAU78LFF3G1117495  Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2015-2016 Audi S3 Sedan

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

**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: WAUFFHFF0F1019540 End: WAUB1GFF1G1118599  Not sequential

**Vehicle 4 :** 2017-2019 Audi A3 Cabriolet

**Vehicle Type :**

**Body Style :**

**Power Train :** NR

**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

**Vehicle 5 :** 2017-2019 Audi A3 Sedan

**Vehicle Type :**

**Body Style :**

**Power Train :** NR

**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

**Vehicle 6 :** 2015-2016 Audi A3 Sedan

**Vehicle Type :**

**Body Style :**

**Power Train :** NR

**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: 66183

**Production Dates :** NOV 28, 2013 - JUL 28, 2016

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUBFGFF5F1000653 End : WAUB8GFFXG1118631  Not sequential

Vehicle 7 : 2019-2019 Audi RS3

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

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 RS3 vehicle count: 526

Production Dates : MAR 08, 2019 - APR 30, 2019

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WUABWGFF2KA900023 End : WUABWGFF6KA903877  Not sequential

Vehicle 8 : 2017-2018 Audi A3 e-Tron

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

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 e-Tron vehicle count: 6061

Production Dates : AUG 24, 2016 - AUG 22, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUTPBFF5HA033496 End : WAUUPBFFXJA155314  Not sequential

Vehicle 9 : 2017-2018 Audi RS3

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

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 RS3 vehicle count: 2120

Production Dates : MAR 28, 2017 - JUL 13, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WUABWGFF6H1900082 End : WUABWGFF1J1909097  Not sequential

Vehicle 10 : 2019-2019 Audi A3 Sedan

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

**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