

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

19V-547

Manufacturer Name : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.**Submission Date :** AUG 07, 2019**NHTSA Recall No. :** 19V-547**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 74D9**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 : 145,337

Estimated percentage with defect : 100 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2018-2018 Audi S5 Cabriolet

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.

S5 Cabriolet count:2784

Production Dates : MAR 02, 2017 - JUL 28, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAU24GF5XJN000131 End : WAU24GF57JN022359 Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2017-2018 Audi A4 Allroad

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.

A4 Allroad count is 6,696.

Production Dates : JUN 16, 2016 - JUL 26, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WA18NAF40HA017952 End : WA18NAF49JA234177 Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2018-2018 Audi S4 Sedan

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.
S4 Sedan count is 5,905.

Production Dates : NOV 25, 2016 - JUL 30, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUB4AF45JA001215 **End :** WAUC4AF48JA233988 Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2018-2018 Audi A5 Coupe

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.
A5 Coupe count is 7,248.

Production Dates : NOV 17, 2016 - JUL 25, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUTNAF50JA000483 **End :** WAUTNAF50JA135396 Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 2018-2018 Audi A5 Sportback

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.
A5 Sportback count is 16,100.

Production Dates : FEB 07, 2017 - JUL 26, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUFNCF51JA002378 **End :** WAUCNCF50JA135829 Not sequential

Vehicle 6 : 2018-2018 Audi S5 Sportback

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.
S5 Sportback count is 7,893.

Production Dates : FEB 12, 2017 - JUL 27, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUB4CF50JA002776 **End :** WAUB4CF50JA135828 Not sequential

Vehicle 7 : 2018-2018 Audi S5 Coupe

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.
S5 Coupe count is 3,030.

Production Dates : DEC 03, 2016 - JUL 26, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUR4AF54JA001276 **End :** WAUP4AF50JA134334 Not sequential

Vehicle 8 : 2017-2018 Audi A4 Sedan

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.
A4 Sedan count is 30,301.

Production Dates : MAR 10, 2016 - JUL 27, 2018

Vehicle 9 : 2017-2018 Audi A4 Sedan

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.
A4 Sedan count is 56,665.

Production Dates : NOV 04, 2015 - JUL 30, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUENAF47HN000127 **End :** WAUKMAF44JN019388 Not sequential

Vehicle 10 : 2018-2018 Audi A5 Cabriolet

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.
A5 Cabriolet count is 7,474.

Production Dates : FEB 17, 2017 - JUL 30, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAU2NGF51JN000130 End : WAUYNGF50JN022372 Not sequential

Vehicle 11 : 2018-2019 Audi RS5 Sportback

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A4/A5 vehicles equipped with the affected system produced from SOP (start of production) to July 31st, 2018. Currently there are no field reports regarding this issue for vehicles produced since end of July 2018. Audi continues to investigate the topic.

RS5 Sportback vehicle count: 1,252

Production Dates : NOV 03, 2017 - JUL 06, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WUAPWAF5XJA901977 End : WUABWCF50KA900070 Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect : In certain cases, the aluminum shielding on the PODS harness under the seat may not be fitted tight enough to the harness which may allow partial surface corrosion in that area which causes a mostly sporadic error code to occur. As designed, the passenger occupant detection system (PODS) switches off the passenger airbag if a malfunction is detected. 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 : In certain cases, the aluminum shielding on the PODS harness under the seat may not be fitted tight enough to the harness which may allow partial surface corrosion in that area which causes a mostly sporadic error code to occur. As designed, the passenger occupant detection system (PODS) switches off the passenger airbag if a malfunction is detected.

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 :

May/June 2017: Increased amount of field reports regarding replacements of the passenger occupant detection system. Analysis and investigation was started together in cooperation with supplier. June 2017 – August 2018: During the analysis of field parts (seats) at Audi and IEE facilities in all cases the error could not be reproduced or was not active during analysis. Additional analysis of field cases in the US (with seats still in vehicle) together with the supplier. Root cause could still not clearly be identified. Further testing regarding possible influences and root cause. Error could finally be duplicated temporarily but root cause could still not be determined. After it became clear that a partial surface oxidation inside the connecting cable seems to be a factor, testing for field solution was started. August 2018: After testing was completed and effectiveness was confirmed, field solution was implemented with a technical bulletin (dealer should wrap the cable with a zip-tie in order to interrupt the partial surface oxidation of the electrical shielding inside the cable harness). October 2018: Topic was reported to the Audi Product Safety Committee due to further increase in field reports. November 2018 – April 2019: Further analysis was tasked regarding the difference in field reports across the models and possible influences. May 2019 – July 2019: Confirmation that the self-diagnosis software in certain models is too sensitive in case of surface oxidation on the electrical shielding of the cable. It still remains unclear at this point though how the issue develops and why certain vehicles/models/model years show a higher claim rate than others and why some vehicles do not show any problems.

Chronology continued in comments field below.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program : At no cost to customers, cable ties will be applied at two different points of the harness under the seat which tightens the fit of the aluminum shielding and will interrupt the partial surface oxidation inside the harness and assures the electrical connection. Audi will offer a reimbursement program under this recall.

How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component : The installation of the cable ties will interrupt the partial surface oxidation and therefore the cause for the mostly sporadic error code leading to the deactivation of the passenger airbag.

Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production : So far no correction in production, issue is still under evaluation. Currently there are no field reports for vehicles produced after July 31st, 2018.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule : On or before September 15, 2019.

Planned Dealer Notification Date : SEP 15, 2019 - SEP 15, 2019

Planned Owner Notification Date : SEP 15, 2019 - SEP 15, 2019

* NR - Not Reported