

# Part 573 Safety Recall Report

# 21V-198

**Manufacturer Name :** Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

**Submission Date :** MAR 22, 2021

**NHTSA Recall No. :** 21V-198

**Manufacturer Recall No. :** 69BY



## Manufacturer Information :

## Population :

**Manufacturer Name :** Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

**Number of potentially involved :** 153,152

**Address :** 3800 Hamlin Road

**Estimated percentage with defect :** NR

Auburn Hills MI 48326

**Company phone :** 1-800-893-5298

## Vehicle Information :

**Vehicle 1 :** 2015-2020 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 end of production in 2020.

Estimated percentage with defect: Still unknown due to open root cause.

S3 SEDAN count: 14532

**Production Dates :** JUN 10, 2014 - NOV 11, 2020

**VIN Range 1 :** Begin : WAUB1GFFXG1019540 End : WAUE1GFF6LA106066  Not sequential

**Vehicle 2 :** 2015-2020 Aud 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 end of production in 2020.

Estimated percentage with defect: Still unknown due to open root cause.

A3 SEDAN count: 113164

**Production Dates :** NOV 28, 2013 - OCT 20, 2020

**VIN Range 1 :** Begin : WAUBFGFF5F1000653 End : WAUA7GFF5G1106143  Not sequential

Vehicle 3 : 2016-2018 Audi A3 ETRON

Vehicle Type :

Body Style :

Power Train : NR

Descriptive Information : The recall population includes all A3 vehicles produced from start of production in 2013 until end of production in 2020.

Estimated percentage with defect: Still unknown due to open root cause.

A3 ETRON count: 9573

Production Dates : JUL 13, 2015 - AUG 22, 2018

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUTPBFF3GA012838 End : WAUUPBFFXJA155314  Not sequential

Vehicle 4 : 2017-2020 Audi RS3 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 end of production in 2020.

Estimated percentage with defect: Still unknown due to open root cause.

RS3 SEDAN count: 4147

Production Dates : MAR 28, 2017 - SEP 23, 2020

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WUABWGFF9J1900082 End : WUABWGFF7LA906238  Not sequential

Vehicle 5 : 2015-2019 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 end of production in 2020.

Estimated percentage with defect: Still unknown due to open root cause.

A3 CABRIOLET count: 11736

Production Dates : JUN 05, 2014 - JUL 12, 2019

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAU3FLFF7F1020223 End : WAU6ULFF9K1033102  Not sequential

**Description of Defect :**

Description of the Defect : 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". This error often occurs sporadic and for a limited amount of time. When the error disappears, the passenger airbag works again as intended without any action/interaction necessary by the customer.

FMVSS 1 : 208 - Occupant crash protection

FMVSS 2 : NR

Description of the Safety Risk : If the passenger airbag is switched off by the system, there would be an increased risk of injury to the occupant seated in the front passenger seat in case of an accident necessitating passenger airbag activation. However, the airbag warning system operates as designed; if the PODS system malfunctions, a warning light in the instrument panel illuminates, an error message is displayed, and a warning sound alerts the vehicle operator.

Description of the Cause : The investigation regarding the root cause is ongoing.

Identification of Any Warning that can Occur : Customers can continue driving these vehicles. As designed, in case of a malfunction within the Passenger Occupant Detection System, 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". If these warnings appear, Audi recommends to not use the passenger seat and take the vehicle to an Audi dealership as soon as possible.

**Involved Components :**

Component Name 1 : Repair kit for passenger seat occupant detection

Component Description : Repair kit for passenger seat occupant detection

Component Part Number : 8V0898522

**Supplier Identification :****Component Manufacturer**

Name : IEE S.A.

Address : 1, rue du Campus

Bissen Foreign States 7795

Country : Luxembourg

### Chronology :

Please see chronology attached.

### Description of Remedy :

**Description of Remedy Program :** Due to the ongoing investigation of the root cause, the remedy program is not yet determined. Audi continues to work intensively on the identification of the root cause and the remedy with the supplier.

**How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :** Remedy component and recalled component are still open due to the ongoing investigation of the root cause. Customers can continue driving these vehicles. As designed, in case of a malfunction within the Passenger Occupant Detection System, 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". If these warnings appear, Audi recommends to not use the passenger seat and take the vehicle to an Audi dealership as soon as possible.

**Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :** The affected Audi A3 generation is not being produced anymore.

### Recall Schedule :

**Description of Recall Schedule :** Dealers/owners on or before 05/21/2021

**Planned Dealer Notification Date :** MAY 21, 2021 - MAY 21, 2021

**Planned Owner Notification Date :** MAY 21, 2021 - MAY 21, 2021

\* NR - Not Reported