

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

21V-198

Manufacturer Name : Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Submission Date : DEC 16, 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 : 100 %

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.

S3 SEDAN count: 14532

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

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

Vehicle 2 : 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.

RS3 SEDAN count: 4147

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

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

Vehicle 3 : 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.

A3 CABRIOLET count: 11736

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

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

Vehicle 4 : 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.

A3 ETRON count: 9573

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

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

Vehicle 5 : 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.

A3 SEDAN count: 113164

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

VIN Range 1 : Begin : WAUBFGFF5F1000653 End : WAUA7GFF5G1106143 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 : 12/16/2021: Amending to provide information regarding the remedy for this recall. To correct this defect, authorized Audi dealers will replace the passenger occupant detection system (PODS) sensor mat and update the PODS control module. Audi will not be offering a reimbursement plan under this recall.

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: 12/16/2021 - recall repair available announcement
Owners: On or about 12/23/2021 recall repair available notifications will be mailed

Planned Dealer Notification Date : DEC 16, 2021 - DEC 16, 2021

Planned Owner Notification Date : DEC 23, 2021 - DEC 28, 2021

* NR - Not Reported