

**IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL**

Audi of America, Inc.



<MONTH YEAR>

<CUSTOMER NAME>

<CUSTOMER ADDRESS>

<CUSTOMER CITY STATE ZIPCODE>

**This notice applies to your vehicle:** <MODEL YEAR> <BRAND> <CARLINE>, <VIN>

**NHTSA:** 21V198

**Subject: Safety Recall 69BY – Passenger Occupant Detection System (PODS)**

Dear Audi Owner,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Audi has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2015-2020 model year Audi vehicles. Our records show that you are the owner of a vehicle affected by this action.

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**What is the issue?** The passenger occupant detection system (PODS) may detect a malfunction and switch off the passenger airbag even though the seat may be occupied.

However, the airbag system and the warning strategy operate as designed. If the PODS malfunctions, 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 and consequently the warnings disappear, the passenger airbag works again as intended without any action/interaction necessary by the customer. In the event of a crash necessitating passenger airbag activation 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.

**What will we do?** To correct this defect, your authorized Audi dealer will replace the passenger occupant detection system (PODS) sensor mat and update the PODS control module. This work will take about four hours to complete and will be performed for you free of charge. Please keep in mind that your dealer will need to schedule your repair based on part availability. They may also need additional time for the preparation of the repair, as well as to accommodate their daily workshop schedule.

**What should you do?** Please contact your authorized Audi dealer without delay to schedule this recall repair. For your convenience, you can also visit [www.audiusa.com](http://www.audiusa.com) and click on the "Find a Dealer" link to locate a dealer near you and schedule this service.

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### **Precautions you should take**

Audi has advised that customers can continue driving these vehicles. Please ensure that everyone who uses your vehicle has read the owner's manual and is familiar with how the PODS works for the front passenger seat.

As designed, in case of a malfunction within the PODS, a warning light in the instrument panel will come on together with a warning sound and an error message will be displayed in the instrument cluster (the airbag indicator light shows "passenger airbag off"). If these warnings appear, Audi recommends that you stop using the front passenger seat and make arrangements to have the vehicle inspected/repaired at an Audi dealership as soon as possible.

### **Lease vehicles and address changes**

If you are the lessor and registered owner of the vehicle identified in this action, the law requires you to forward this letter immediately via first-class mail to the lessee within ten (10) days of receipt. If you have changed your address or sold the vehicle, please fill out the enclosed prepaid Owner Reply card and mail it to us so we can update our records.

### **Reimbursement of Expenses**

If you have previously paid for repairs relating to the condition described in this letter, the enclosed form explains how to request reimbursement. We would be pleased to review your reimbursement request.

### **Can we assist you further?**

If your authorized Audi dealer fails or is unable to complete this work free of charge within a reasonable time, please contact Audi Customer Experience at 1-800-253-2834 or via our "Contact Us" page at [www.audiusa.com](http://www.audiusa.com).

### **Checking your vehicle for open Recalls and Service Campaigns**

To check your vehicle's eligibility for repair under this or any other recall/service campaign, please visit the **Recall/Service Campaign Lookup** tool at [www.audiusa.com](http://www.audiusa.com) and enter your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN).

If you still cannot obtain satisfaction, you may file a complaint with: The Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We apologize for any inconvenience this matter may cause; however we are taking this action to help ensure your safety and continued satisfaction with your vehicle.

Sincerely,

Audi Customer Protection