

# VOLKSWAGEN

GROUP OF AMERICA

Ann Carlson, Acting Administrator  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

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October 07, 2022 Date

Subject: Chronology for Volkswagen Recall Codes 13i4/13i5  
Engine Connecting Rod

Dear Ms. Carlson:

VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA, INC.  
3800 HAMLIN ROAD  
AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326  
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Volkswagen hereby submits the following chronology associated with the subject recall.

## Chronology of Defect

November 09, 2021: Volkswagen learned about a fire case in a Volkswagen Atlas that may have originated in the engine compartment. Upon conducting a visual inspection of the vehicle, severe engine damage was found, however, Volkswagen was unable to determine the root cause at that time.

February 13-22, 2022: While investigating engine noise allegations at the Chattanooga plant, Volkswagen analyzed an engine, and shipped parts to the engine factory in Mexico for further analysis to identify potential root cause. Analysis process started. First results of the engine (for noise allegations) analyzed in Chattanooga during the week of February 13, 2022 showed manufacturing deviations at the connecting rod.

April 07, 2022: The first analysis of the engine from the November 2021 fire incident in Chattanooga was completed. This analysis identified manufacturing deviations at the connecting rod. Parts were shipped to the engine factory in Mexico for further, detailed analysis.

Week of May 01, 2022: Analysis of additional engines with noise allegations was initiated in order to determine potential root cause and to evaluate potential scope.

Week of July 17, 2022: Volkswagen received the final laboratory report, which confirmed multiple connecting rod manufacturing deviations as root cause for the engines that had been analyzed for noise allegations.

August 18, 2022: Volkswagen learned about a second fire case in a Volkswagen Atlas that may have originated in the engine compartment. Upon conducting a visual inspection of the vehicle, severe engine damage was found, however, Volkswagen was unable to determine the root cause. To date, Volkswagen is unable to access this vehicle for further analysis.

September 09, 2022: The topic was presented in Volkswagen Product Safety Committee. An evaluation of claims shows that the vast majority are for engine noise, and that the incidents occurred very early in vehicle life (below 1,000 miles/ 1600 km). Further details

were requested regarding the root cause, characteristics of the failure modes, and scoping of potentially affected vehicles.

September 14, 2022: The topic was discussed with NHTSA ODI during the company's quarterly meeting. Volkswagen conveyed that the investigations were still ongoing and were estimated to take another 2 weeks.

September 30, 2022: The topic was presented in Volkswagen and Audi Product Safety Committees, and a safety recall was decided based on analysis results that a sudden loss of motive power may occur and an engine oil leak cannot be ruled out. Volkswagen Group of America is aware of 1 fire case on a Volkswagen Atlas vehicle attributable to this issue and 1 additional fire case on a Volkswagen Atlas vehicle with an open root cause still under investigation. There are no reports of fires or crashes on Audi Q5 vehicles due to this issue.

Please contact me if you require any additional information or have any questions related to this information.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sandvig  
Director, Group Customer Protection  
Group Quality