

VOLKSWAGEN

GROUP OF AMERICA

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

Christopher T. Sandvig NAME
Director Title
Group Customer Protection Department
248-754-5000 Phone
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March 29, 2023 Date

Subject: Chronology for Volkswagen Recall 69FB
Passenger Occupant Protection System (PODS)

VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA, INC.
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Dear Ms. Carlson:

Volkswagen hereby submits the following chronology associated with the subject recall.

Chronology of Defect

August 2019: Investigation started into PODS due to reports of single claims in certain Atlas vehicles.

August 2019 - May 2020: Analysis of field return parts by the supplier, vehicle analysis together with supplier. Start of life cycles tests in order to understand behavior and to identify potential root cause. All PODS components were within the scope of the analysis.

May 2020: Topic was presented to Volkswagen Pre-Product Safety Committee. More details regarding the duration of the fault present in the vehicle, field performance, risk assessment and potential remedy requested.

May 2020 - January 2021: Further investigation of the potential root cause, remedy, and analysis of the field behavior. The Atlas system shows a significantly different behavior in the field than other models. Investigation on contributing factors initiated.

January 2021: Topic was presented in the Volkswagen Product Safety Committee. More details regarding the field behavior in Atlas vehicles requested.

February 2021: Topic was presented in Volkswagen Product Safety Committee. Field data analysis indicates that the failure is highly sporadic and the warning light is illuminating immediately upon failure. More details on the field data requested.

June 2021: Topic was presented in Volkswagen Product Safety Committee. Technical bulletin initiated.

May 2022: Investigation initiated in order to understand field performance of PODS built with new design cable that had been entered into production during October 2020.

November 2022: Further parts from field vehicles requested for analysis; analysis ongoing.

February 28, 2023: NHTSA requested a meeting in order to discuss the field performance of the Atlas PODS.

February 28, 2023 – March 22, 2023: Reviewed field data again and analysis showed a concentration of claims during two discrete production periods.

March 22, 2023: Topic was presented in Volkswagen Product Safety Committee. The updated field data and analyses were presented. A technical root cause for the increase in the two production periods could not be identified. Out of abundance of caution, the committee decided to recall vehicles from the two production periods with significantly higher failure rates.

March 23, 2023: Meeting with NHTSA to discuss the topic and recall decision.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. T. Sandvig', is positioned above the printed name.

Christopher T. Sandvig
Director, Group Customer Protection
Group Quality