



Safety Recall

Code: 69E6

Subject Document History

Driver Frontal Airbag Inflator

Date	Summary
04/25/2025	Updated vehicle rental/loaner claiming information (U.S. only)
12/17/2024	Original publication

Affected Vehicles

Country	Beginning Model Year	Ending Model Year	Vehicle	Vehicle Count
USA	2012	2014	PASSAT	133,852
CAN	2012	2014	PASSAT	10,103

Check Campaigns/Actions screen in ELSA on the day of repair to verify that a VIN qualifies for repair under this action. ELSA is the only valid campaign inquiry & verification source.

- ✓ Campaign status must show "open."
- ✓ If ELSA shows other open action(s), inform your customer so that the work can also be completed at the same time the vehicle is in the workshop for this campaign.

Problem Description

The driver's side frontal airbag inflator may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to high absolute humidity, high temperatures, and high temperature cycling. An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

Corrective Action

Replace driver frontal airbag.

Code Visibility

On December 10, 2024, the campaign code was applied to affected vehicles.

Owner Notification

Owner notification will take place in December 2024. Owner letter examples are included in this bulletin for your reference.

Additional Information

Please alert everyone in your dealership about this action, including Sales, Service, Parts and Accounting personnel. Contact Warranty if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT REMINDER ON VEHICLES AFFECTED BY SAFETY & COMPLIANCE RECALL

New Vehicles in Dealer Inventory: It is a violation of federal law for a dealer to deliver a new motor vehicle or any new or used item of motor vehicle equipment (including a tire) covered by this notification under a sale or lease until the defect or noncompliance is remedied. By law, dealers must correct, prior to delivery for sale or lease, any vehicle that fails to comply with an applicable Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard or that contains a defect relating to motor vehicle safety.

Pre-Owned Vehicles in Dealer Inventory: Dealers should not deliver any pre-owned vehicles in their inventory which are involved in a safety or compliance recall until the defect has been remedied.

Dealers must ensure that every affected inventory vehicle has this campaign completed before delivery to consumers.

Fill out and affix Campaign Completion Label (CAMP 010 000) after work is complete. Labels can be ordered at no cost via the Compliance Label Ordering portal at www.vwclub.com.

Parts Information

Criteria	Quantity	Part Number	P.O.C. Part Description	Ordering Method
T3	1	561-880-201-AA 81U	AIRBAG	Reference POC comments individually by part number, or in the POC Campaign List.

Initial Allocation:
NO

There will be no parts allocation.

NOTE

Your dealer's Estimated Remaining Repairs by campaign can be found in Parts on Command.
Click on "View Campaign List" and review the Estimated Remaining Repairs column.

NOTE

Campaign parts should always be ordered as per the parts information in this circular. The ordering system will supersede the part, if applicable.

Claim Entry Instructions

The labor times listed here may differ from the labor operations and labor times listed in ELSA.

After campaign has been completed, enter claim as soon as possible to help prevent work from being duplicated elsewhere. Attach the ELSA screen print showing action open on the day of repair to the repair order.

If a customer declines campaign work, refer to the "Customer Declines Campaign/Update Repair" section in the Campaign/Update Policy and Procedures Manual.

Service Number	69E6		
Damage Code	0099		
Parts Vendor Code	WWO		
Claim Type	Sold vehicle: 7 10 Unsold vehicle: 7 90		
Causal Indicator	Mark AIRBAG* as causal part		
Vehicle Wash	Do not claim wash under this action.		
Vehicle Loaner	<u>US Dealers:</u> See special claiming instructions for rental/loaner claiming. NOTE: A 2nd claim must be entered for rental/loaner claiming <u>Canadian Dealers:</u> Do not claim loaner under this action.		
Criteria I.D.	T3		
	LABOR		
	Labor Op	Time Units	Description
	6958 56 99	65	Install new driver frontal airbag
	PARTS		
	Quantity	Part Number	Description
	1.00	561880201AA81U	AIRBAG*

Vehicle Loaner US DEALERS ONLY	Enter vehicle loaner claim as a separate (2nd) claim		
	Claim Type	1 SP	
	Service Number	X176	
	Damage Code	0055	
	Parts Vendor Code	444	
	Outside Labor Operation	X176US00	Enter dollar amount on rental/loaner invoice

Customer Letter Example (USA)

<MONTH YEAR>

<CUSTOMER NAME>

<CUSTOMER ADDRESS>

<CUSTOMER CITY STATE ZIPCODE>

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

NHTSA: 24V834

Subject: Safety Recall 69E6 - Driver Frontal Airbag Inflator

Dear Volkswagen Owner,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Volkswagen has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain 2012-2014 model year Volkswagen vehicles. Our records show that you are the owner of a vehicle affected by this action.

What is the issue?

The driver's side frontal airbag inflator may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to high absolute humidity, high temperatures, and high temperature cycling. An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

What will we do?

To correct this defect, your authorized Volkswagen dealer will replace the driver frontal airbag or airbag inflator. This work will take about two hours to complete and will be performed for you free of charge. Please keep in mind that your dealer may need additional time for the preparation of the work, as well as to accommodate their daily workshop schedule.

What should you do?

Please contact your authorized Volkswagen dealer without delay to schedule this recall work. To set up an appointment online, please visit www.vw.com/find-a-dealer.

Additional Information

- 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 your authorized Volkswagen dealer fails or is unable to complete this work free of charge within a reasonable time, if you have changed your address or no longer own the vehicle identified in this letter, or if you should have any questions about this communication, please reach out to us using your preferred method of communication at www.vw.com/contact or by calling us at 800-893-5298.
- 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>.
- To check your vehicle's eligibility for repair under this or any other recall/service campaign, please visit www.vw.com/owners/recalls and enter your Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) into the Recall/Service Campaign Lookup tool.

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,

Volkswagen Customer Protection

Customer Letter Example (Canada)

<MONTH YEAR>

<CUSTOMER NAME>

<CUSTOMER ADDRESS>

<CUSTOMER CITY STATE ZIPCODE>

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

Transport Canada Recall: 2024-649

Subject: Safety Recall 69E6 - Driver Frontal Airbag Inflator

Dear Volkswagen Owner,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the *Motor Vehicle Safety Act*. This is to inform you that your vehicle may contain a defect that could affect the safety of a person. Our records show that you are the owner of a vehicle affected by this action.

What is the issue?

The driver's side frontal airbag inflator may explode due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to high absolute humidity, high temperatures, and high temperature cycling. An inflator explosion may result in sharp metal fragments striking the driver or other occupants resulting in serious injury or death.

What will we do?

To correct this defect, your authorized Volkswagen dealer will replace the driver frontal airbag or airbag inflator. This work will take about two hours to complete and will be performed for you free of charge. Please keep in mind that your dealer may need additional time for the preparation of the work, as well as to accommodate their daily workshop schedule.

What should you do?

Please contact your authorized Volkswagen dealer without delay to schedule this recall work.

Additional Information

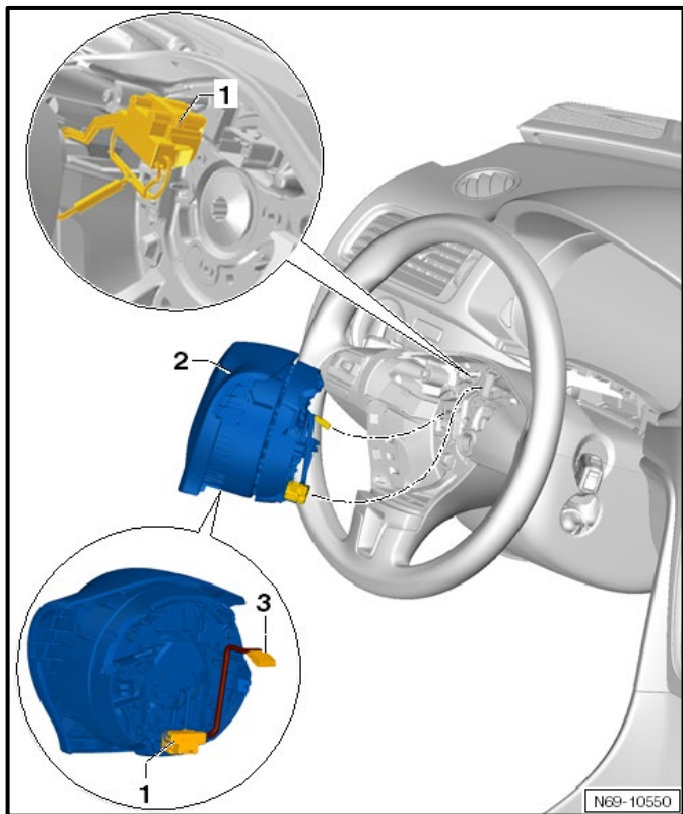
- If you are the lessor and registered owner of the vehicle identified in this letter, you shall forward this letter (and any subsequent notice, if applicable) to the lessee within ten (10) days of receipt.
- If your authorized Volkswagen dealer fails or is unable to complete this work free of charge within a reasonable time, if you have changed your address or no longer own the vehicle identified in this letter, or if you should have any questions about this communication, please contact Customer Relations, Monday through Friday from 8AM to 8PM EST by phone at 1-800-822-8987 or via our "Contact Us" page at www.vw.ca.

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,

Volkswagen Customer Protection

Repair Overview



- Replace driver airbag.

NOTE

- These repair instructions may differ from the labor operations and labor times listed in ELSA.
- Damages resulting from improper repair or failure to follow these work instructions are the dealer's responsibility and are not eligible for reimbursement under this action.
- This procedure must be read in its entirety prior to performing the repair.
- Due to variations in vehicle equipment and options, the steps/illustrations in this work procedure may not identically match all affected vehicles.
- Diagnosis and repair of pre-existing conditions in the vehicle are not covered under this action.
- When working during extreme temperatures, it is recommended that the vehicle be allowed to acclimate inside the shop to avoid temperature-related component damage/breakage.

Required Tools and Equipment



Bar Code Scanner
-VAS6161/1-
(or equivalent)





Diagnostic Tester
-VAS6150X/6160X-
(or equivalent)

Repair Instruction


Section A - Check for Previous Repair

TIP

If Campaign Completion label is present, no further work is required.

Applicable criteria ID(s)	Campaign/Action Status
01 	Open 

EXAMPLE

Campaign/Action	Start	Designation
	2015-11-10	W-SERV_ACT -
	2018-12-13	RECALL -
	2017-05-16	A-RECALL -

EXAMPLE

- Enter the VIN in Elsa and proceed to the "Campaign/Action" screen.

TIP

On the date of repair, print this screen and keep a copy with the repair order.

- Confirm the Campaign/Action is open <arrow 1>. If the status is closed, no further work is required.
- Note the Applicable Criteria ID <arrow 2> for use in determining the correct work to be done and corresponding parts associated.

CRITICAL REPAIR STEP



All campaigns/actions with a repair available must be performed in order of the Start date <arrow 3>. The oldest should be performed first (unless otherwise noted in the repair instructions).

Proceed to Section B

Section B – Airbag Identification

DANGER

- The driver frontal airbag inflator could potentially rupture (due to propellant degradation occurring after long-term exposure to absolute high humidity and temperature cycling). In the event of an inflator rupture, in very rare cases metal fragments could pass through the airbag cushion material, which may result in serious injury or death.
- This Recall should be performed before any other work is performed on the vehicle.

WARNING

Risk of injury. Refer to “Warning and Safety Precautions”, found in **Appendix A** at the end of this document.

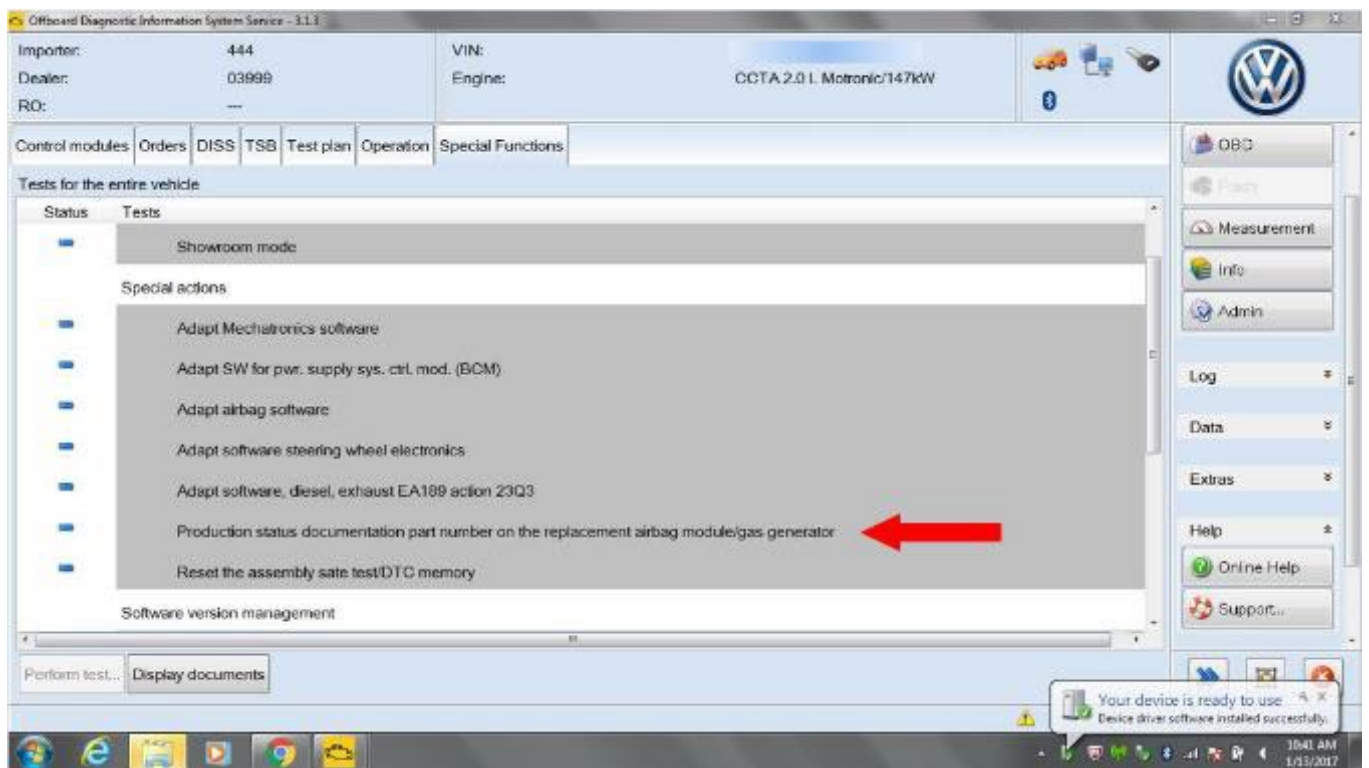
WARNING

Risk of injury.

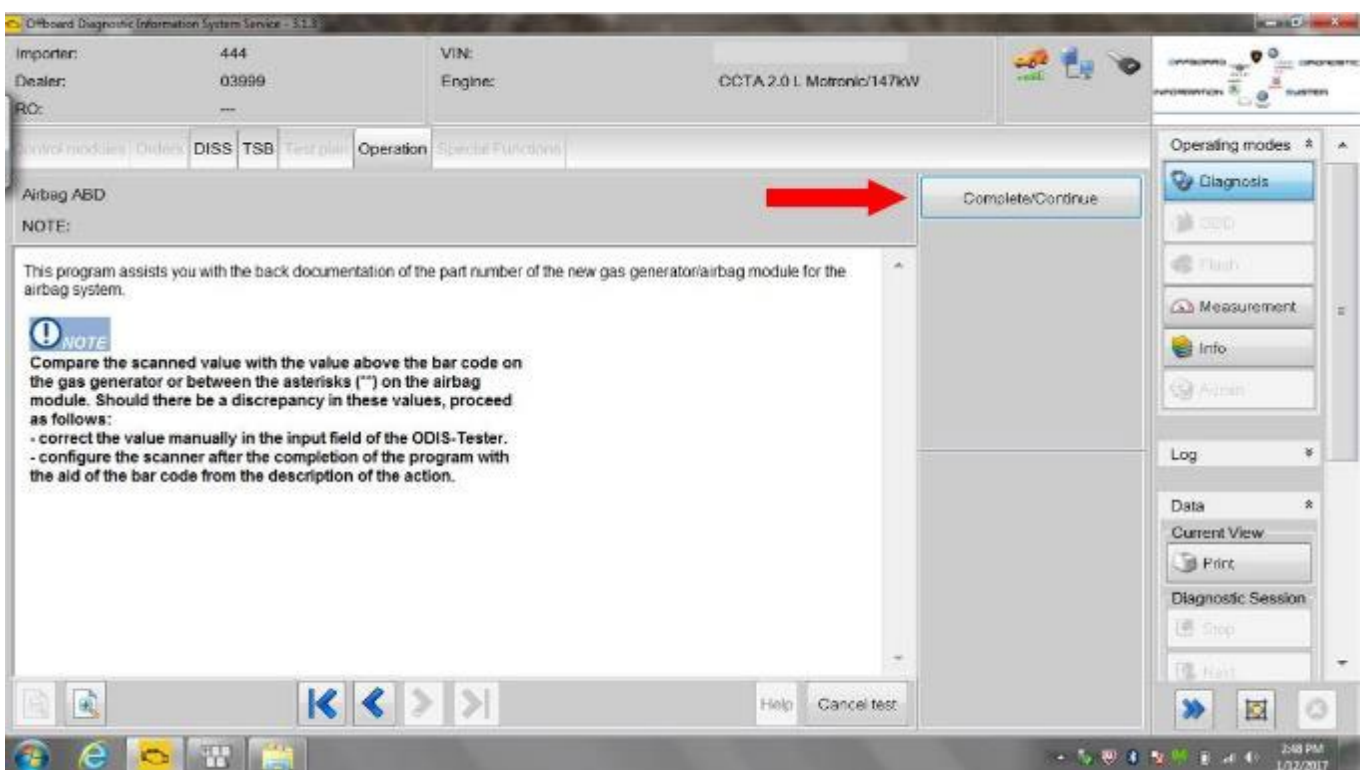
- People in the immediate vicinity of the workplace must be protected from possible noise and projectiles.
- Pyrotechnic components can trigger unintentionally.
- In the event of unintentional deployment:
 - Single-stage inflators: allow airbag to cool down completely. Wait at least 10 minutes before handling.
 - Two-stage inflators: wait for second airbag ignition. Allow airbag to cool down completely. Wait at least 10 minutes before handling.



- Ensure ODIS is updated to the latest version.
- Connect vehicle diagnostic tester to the diagnostic head using the USB cable.
- Select Start Diagnosis function and identify vehicle.
- After identification of control units, Guided Fault Finding is started automatically.
- Follow the instructions on screen.



In operating mode Special Functions, Select **“Production status documentation part number on the replacement airbag module/gas generator”** <arrow>.

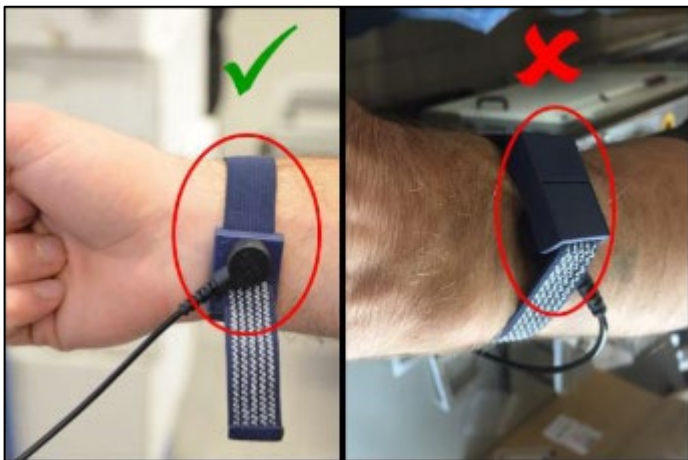


- Scanning the data matrix code during this test plan step calibrates the scanner to avoid error messages.

- Scanning the calibrating data matrix code may not have to be done every time (only when the scanner requires calibration). You will know if the scanner needs calibrating if the scanner does not scan the airbag's data matrix code.
- If the airbag data matrix code cannot be scanned, then print out this matrix shown below and scan the printout.



- After calibrating the scanner, select **“Complete/Continue”**



- Put the wrist strap from the ESD workplace on your wrist.

⚠ CAUTION

The white dots on the wrist strap must be against the skin.

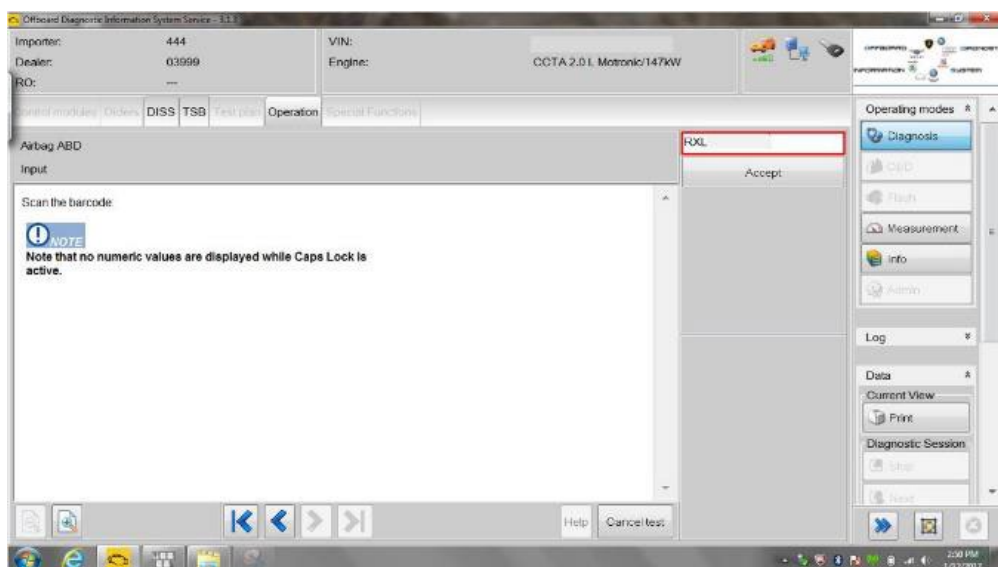


- Place the new airbag on the ESD mat.
- Scan the data matrix code <circle> of the new airbag at a distance of about 15 cm.



! NOTE

Scanning the bar code on the new airbag will result in an “implausible barcode” message.



NOTE

- After scanning the data matrix code, the airbag control module will be recoded and reparameterized automatically.
- If the diagnostic log is sent or saved after the test plan completes, switch to the OBD operating mode and clear all faults using OBD. This process will only take a couple of minutes. Due to the number of faults generated during the parameterization test plan, ODIS may lock up when saving the log, exiting GFF or sending the diagnostic protocol.
- Some of the ODIS operations (i.e. exiting GFF or sending the diagnostic protocol) may also appear to “stall” even if faults are cleared. Be patient while the operation(s) completes.
- Once the **Production status documentation part number on the replacement airbag module/gas generator** test plan completes with a green check mark, there would be no need to repeat the test plan in the event ODIS were to lock up.

NOTE

- Compare the scanned value with the value shown near the data matrix code on the new airbag.
- If there is a discrepancy, manually enter the value from the new airbag in the input field.
- If no value appears, recalibrate the scanner.

- Upload diagnostic log online.

NOTE

RISK of Non-payment!

Diagnosis logs must be sent on-line after the test plan is completed to be considered for reimbursement.

Proceed to Section C

Section C – Airbag Replacement



WARNING

Accident risk. When working on pyrotechnic components (such as airbags and belt tensioners), the battery must be disconnected with the ignition switched **ON**.

NOTE

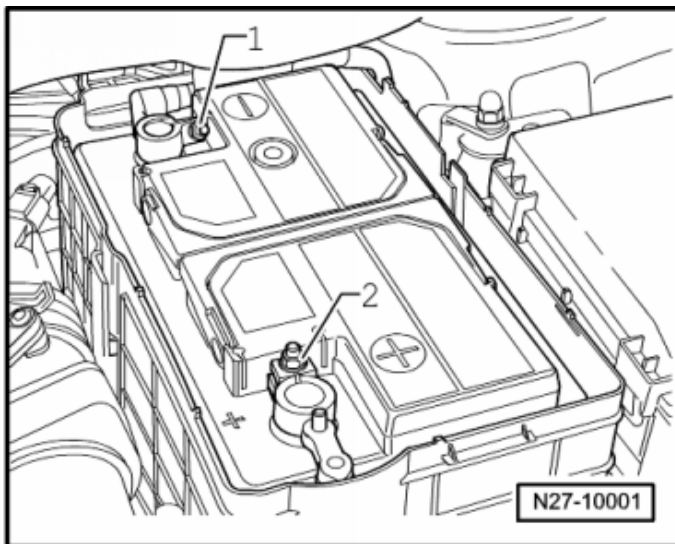
Before disconnecting the battery, it is recommended to record the customer's radio presets so they can be restored before returning vehicle to the customer.

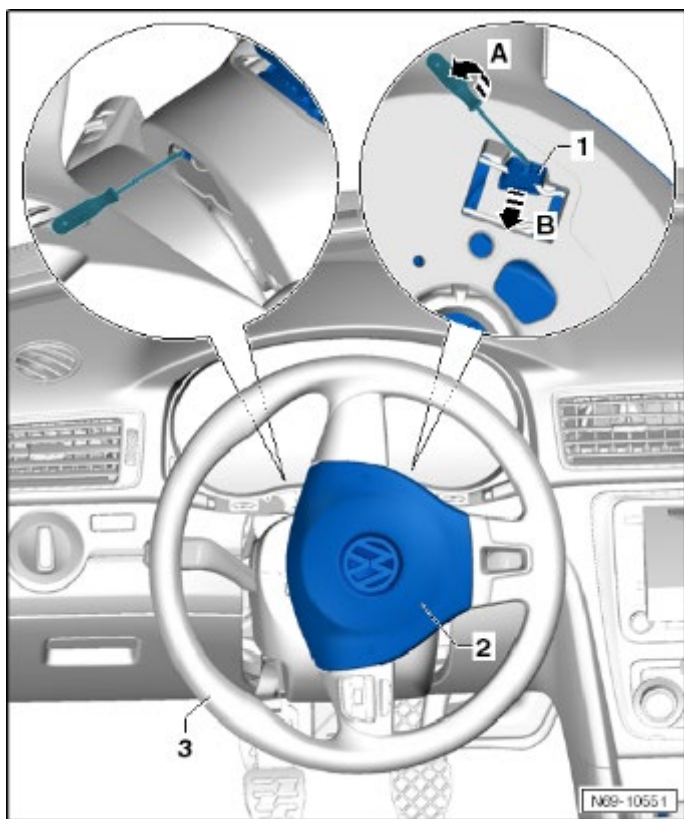
- Turn **ON** the ignition.
- Move the driver seat to the most rearward position.
- Fully recline driver seat.

CAUTION

Reclining the driver seat before disconnecting the battery allows for additional safety in the event Terminal 15 power is not restored when reconnecting the battery at the end of the repair.

- Open the battery protective covering <1>.
- Loosen the nut <1>.
- Remove and isolate the battery ground cable terminal from the battery terminal.

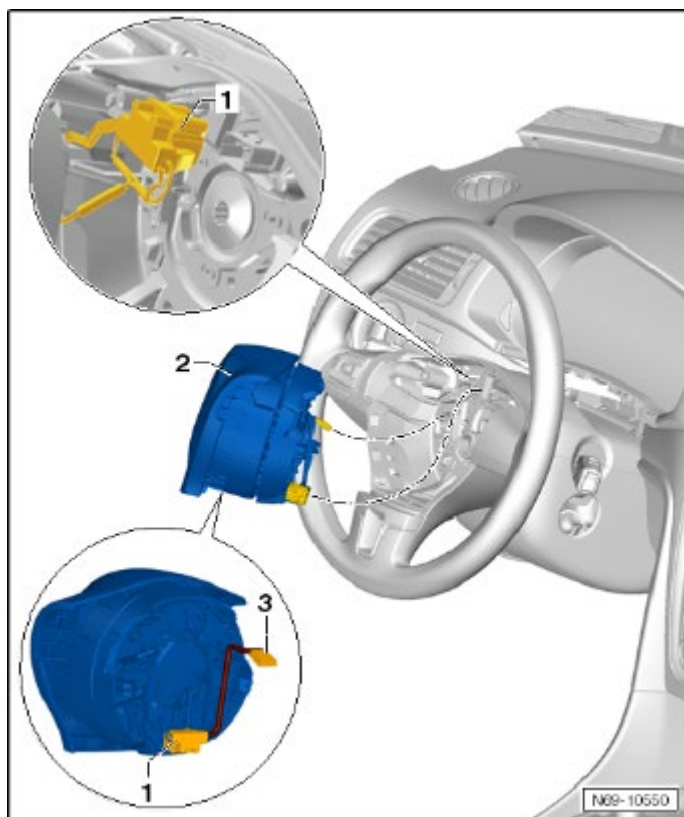




- Lower the steering wheel <3> as far as possible.
- Adjust steering wheel depth (reach) <3> so it is in the fully extended position.
- Turn the steering wheel <3> to the position illustrated.
- Insert a screwdriver all the way into the hole on the back of the steering wheel (approximately 8 mm).
- Turn the screwdriver toward the driver door <arrow A>. This will unlock the airbag unit <2> locking mechanism <1> in direction of <arrow>, on the right side of the steering wheel.
- Turn the steering wheel 180° and repeat the procedure on the opposite side.

NOTE

The screwdriver previously mentioned should be about 175 mm long and have a blade width of 7 mm.



WARNING

Before handling pyrotechnic components (for example, disconnecting the connector), the person handling it must "discharge static electricity". This can be done by touching the door striker, for example.

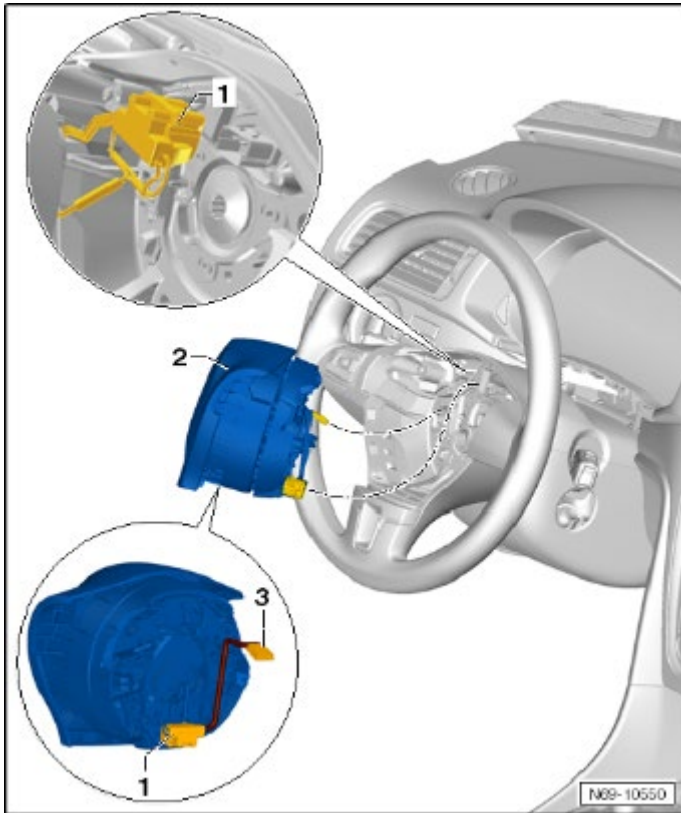
- Turn the steering wheel back to its center position.
- Remove the airbag unit <2> from the steering wheel.
- Release the connector lock on the airbag connector <1> and remove it.
- Disconnect the connector <3> (if equipped).

WARNING

Set the airbag down so the logo on the impact cushion faces upward.

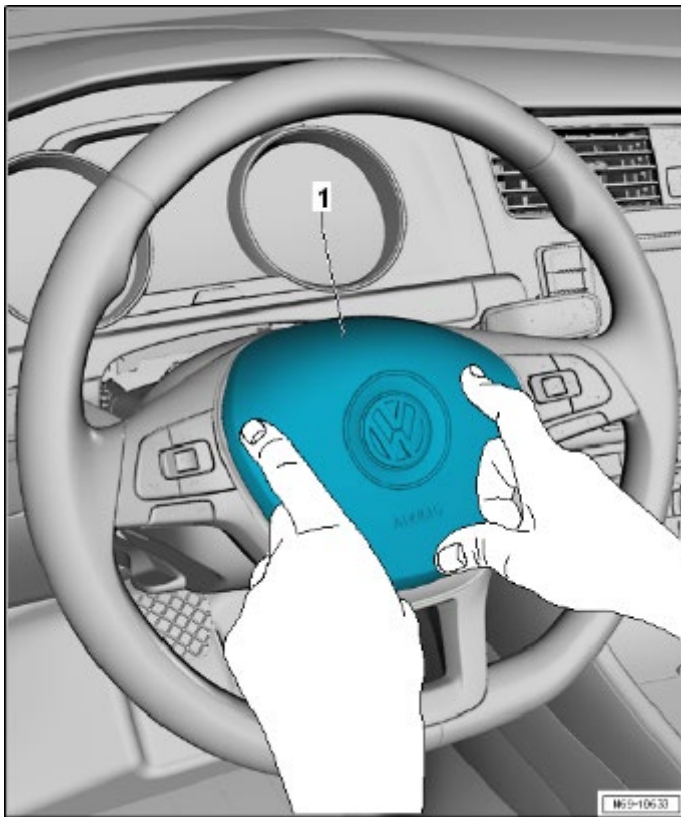
- Install a new driver airbag.

Criteria	Driver Airbag Part Number
T3	561-880-201-AA 81U



⚠ WARNING

- The battery must be disconnected before installing the airbag back into the vehicle.
- Before handling pyrotechnic components (for example, disconnecting the connector), the person handling it must “discharge static electricity”. This can be done by touching the door striker, for example.
- Connect the connector <1>. The connector must click into place.
- Press the connector lock on the connector <1>.
- Connect the connector <3> (if equipped).
- Insert the airbag unit <2> into the steering wheel but do not press on it.



- Press on the edge of the airbag unit <1> with both hands until it locks into place.
- Gently pull on the airbag unit to make sure the airbag unit is secured correctly at all three attachment points in the steering wheel.

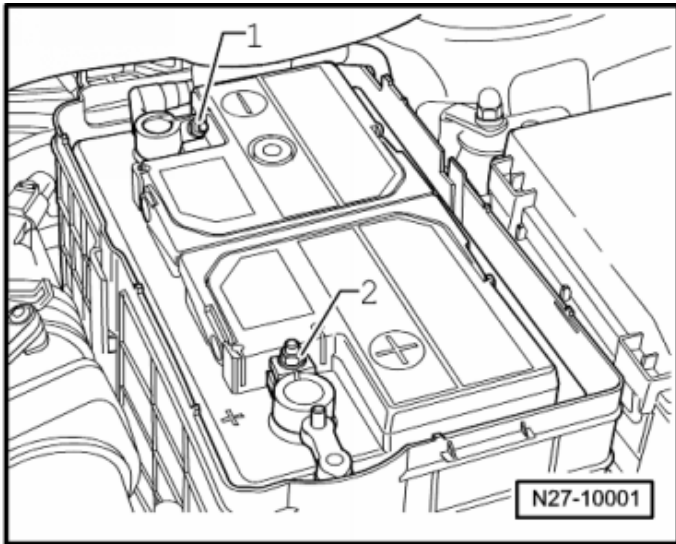
Proceed to Section D

Section D – Battery Reconnect

TIP

The engine may not start after reconnecting battery. This condition should be resolved by following these steps:

1. Remove the key from the vehicle.
2. Open and close the driver's door.
3. Lock then unlock the vehicle using the remote.
4. Insert the key and the vehicle should now start.



WARNING

Ignition must be **ON** when connecting battery. If pyrotechnic components (e.g. airbag, belt tensioner) are not repaired correctly, they may deploy unintentionally after connecting battery. There must not be anyone inside the vehicle when connecting the battery.

- Connect the battery ground cable terminal by hand to the battery negative terminal.

NOTE

After connecting the battery and switching on the ignition, the ASR/ESP Control Lamp -K155- and Electromechanical Power Steering Indicator Lamp light up continuously. The indicator lamps switch off automatically after driving straight ahead at 15 to 20 km/h. This activates Steering Angle Sensor -G85-.

- Torque the nut <1> to 6 Nm.



- Close the cover <1>.
- Cycle the ignition off and back on.
- Bring driver seat to an upright position.
- Store previously recorded radio presets (if necessary).
- Set clock to local time.
- Activate the power window regulator one-touch up/down function.
- Check the DTC memories of all the control units and erase under-voltage faults if necessary.

Proceed to Section E

Section E – Campaign Completion Label

Install Campaign Completion Label

- Fill out and affix Campaign Completion Label, part number CAMP 010 000, next to the vehicle emission control information label.



TIP

Ensure Campaign Completion Label does not cover any existing label(s).

Proceed to Section F

Section F - Parts Return/Disposal

Properly store (retain), destroy or dispose of removed parts in accordance with all state/province and local requirements, unless otherwise indicated and/or requested through the Warranty Parts Portal (WPP) for U.S. and the Part Destruction and Core Disposition Report for Canada.

Appendix A – Warning and Safety Precautions

WARNING

General Safety Precautions when Working with Pyrotechnic Components:

- Pyrotechnic components always contain propellant that generates a gas during combustion. In some components, there is also a supply of pressurized gas to ensure this gas is generated
- This pressurized gas is stored under high pressure in a compressed gas container. Pyrotechnic components are triggered by electrical/mechanical igniters.
- Only trained personnel should perform testing, assembly and servicing work. Airbags do not have a replacement interval.
- Never check with test lamps, voltmeter or ohmmeters.
- Only check pyrotechnic components when they are installed in the vehicle using vehicle diagnosis, testing and information systems approved by the manufacturer.
- When working on pyrotechnic components and the airbag control module, disconnect the battery ground strap while the ignition is switched on. Then cover the negative terminal.
- Wait 10 seconds after disconnecting the battery.
- The ignition must be SWITCHED ON when connecting the battery. There should not be anyone inside the vehicle when doing this.
- Exception: vehicles with batteries in the passenger compartment. In this case, stay outside the range of the airbags and seat belts.
- Wash your hands after touching ignited pyrotechnic components from the restraint system.
- Do not open or repair pyrotechnic components. Use only new components to reduce the risk of injury.
- Do not install pyrotechnic components that have fallen onto a hard surface or show signs of damage.
- Discharge static electricity before handling pyrotechnic components, for example before disconnecting the electrical connector. This can be done by touching grounded metal objects such as the door striker pin.
- Install pyrotechnic components immediately after removing them from their transport packaging. If you must stop working, store the pyrotechnic component in its original transport packaging.
- Do not leave pyrotechnic components lying in the open unattended.
- Do not treat pyrotechnic components with grease, cleaning solutions or similar products.
- Do not expose pyrotechnic components to temperatures above 100 °C, even for brief periods of time.
- People in the immediate vicinity of the workplace must be protected from possible noise and projectiles.
- Pyrotechnic components can trigger unintentionally.
- In the event of unintentional deployment:
 - Single-stage inflators: allow airbag to cool down completely. Wait at least 10 minutes before handling.
 - Two-stage inflators: wait for second airbag ignition. Allow airbag to cool down completely. Wait at least 10 minutes before handling.

Appendix B – Rental Car/Loaner FAQ

TAKATA AIRBAG CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENT DEALERSHIP FAQS

Q: What is an eligible class member entitled to under the Enhanced Rental Car/Loaner Program?

A: Under the Enhanced Rental Car/Loaner Program, VWGoA or Audi of America will provide a rental or loaner vehicle to every owner or lessee who (i) brings one of the covered recalled vehicles to a Volkswagen or Audi dealer for completion of the remedy of the recall and (ii) requests a rental/loaner vehicle while awaiting the remedy for the recall, while the remedy for the recall is in progress, or if there is a delay in performing the remedy for the recall on the affected vehicle.

Q: Is there any information a customer must provide to participate in the Enhanced Rental Car/Loaner Program?

A: The customer must provide adequate proof of insurance. If a rental car (as opposed to a loaner car) is provided, the customer must meet the applicable rental car company's guidelines, including age restrictions.

Q: How long will a rental or loaner car be provided to an eligible class member under the Enhanced Rental Car/Loaner Program?

A: The rental/loaner car will be available until the remedy for the recall is performed on the affected vehicle, at which time the rental/loaner vehicle must be promptly returned to the provider of the rental/loaner vehicle in the same condition (excepting ordinary wear and tear) as received. Absent extenuating circumstances, the rental/loaner vehicle must be returned when the recall is completed. And in no event will VWGoA or Audi of America pay for a rental car or provide a loaner for more than 7 days after the remedy for the recall is completed on a vehicle.

Q: How early can an eligible class member expect to be provided a rental/loaner car under the Enhanced Rental Car/Loaner Program?

A: The Enhanced Rental Car/Loaner Program will take effect no later than 30 calendar days following November 10, 2021, the date of the Court's issuance of an order preliminarily approving the Settlement.