

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
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April 09, 2025 Date

Subject: Chronology for Audi Recall 74HC
Passenger Occupant Detection System (PODS)

Dear Ms. Carlson:

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

Chronology of Defect

In May 2024, the topic was first reviewed under Audi's product safety process due to customer complaints about a yellow warning message regarding the passenger airbag.

May - November 2024: Investigation was started, including analysis of the crimp process as well as further testing to reproduce the failure pattern. Initial attempts to replicate the malfunction were unsuccessful as all returned parts appeared to be in good condition, possibly due to micro-movements during removal and transportation.

By mid-August 2024, a parallel analysis of additional field cases was completed, which showed that the limited number of observed faults were intermittent, and at least some of the faults were resolved by handling or using the seat. The root cause analysis suggested that the problem was due to errors in the crimping process.

Coordination within the brand group took place in September and October 2024. In addition, an ongoing analysis of the fail-safe mechanism was carried out to determine whether airbag deactivation could actually occur (or just the warning message would be displayed). Further assessment of the estimated failure rate, including discussions with the supplier, took place in November 2024.

November 2024 - March 2025: Continued coordination among the affected Volkswagen Group brands continued through February 2025. The technical differences between certain seat occupancy detection system versions and the related production years were analysed in comparison to other years under consideration of the number of claims in specific time periods. As a result, a potential clean date was identified to determine the actual potentially affected population, and comparisons were made of the failure mechanisms within the affected Volkswagen Group brands.

In March 2025, the results of the analysis were completed and prepared for presentation to the Audi Product Safety Committee. On April 02, 2025, out of an abundance of caution, Audi's Product Safety Committee decided a safety recall for the affected vehicles.

As of April 09, 2025, Audi is aware of 101 customer complaints in the US, but is not aware of any injuries or crashes due to this issue.

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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.S.' with a stylized flourish.

Christopher T. Sandvig
Director, Group Customer Protection
Group Quality