



U.S. Department of Transportation
**National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration**

**1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590**

April 29, 2026

26V266

Chris Sandvig
Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
3800 Hamlin Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

Subject: Seat Belts May Not Restrain Occupants

Dear Chris Sandvig:

This letter serves to acknowledge Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.'s notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

Makes/Models/Model Years:

AUDI/Q5/2025
AUDI/SQ5/2025
AUDI/Q5 SPORTBACK/2025
AUDI/SQ5 SPORTBACK/2025

Mfr's Report Date: April 24, 2026

NHTSA Campaign Number: 26V266

Components:

SEAT BELTS:PRETENSIONER

Potential Number of Units Affected: 7,425

Problem Description:

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. (Audi) is recalling certain 2025 Q5, Q5 Sportback, SQ5, and SQ5 Sportback vehicles. The driver and front passenger seat belts may have been manufactured incorrectly, and fail to properly restrain occupants during a crash.

Consequence:

Improperly restrained occupants have an increased risk of injury during a crash.

Remedy:

Dealers will replace the driver and front passenger seat belts as necessary, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed June 23, 2026. Owners may contact Audi's customer service at 1-800-253-2834. Audi's number for this recall is 69GT.

Notes:

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-888-275-9171), or go to www.nhtsa.gov.

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

Please be reminded that under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a)(3), it is illegal for a manufacturer, to sell, offer for sale, import, or introduce or deliver into interstate commerce, a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment that contains a safety defect once the manufacturer has notified NHTSA about that safety defect. This prohibition does not apply once the motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment has been remedied according to the manufacturer's instructions.

As stated in 49 U.S.C. § 30118(f), submission of eight consecutive quarterly reports followed by three annual reports is required. As described in 573.7, submission of the first of eight consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter. The first of three consecutive annual status reports will be due on, or before, 1 year after the eighth quarterly report was submitted.

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.'s contact for this recall will be Dusty Gardner who may be reached by email at dusty.gardner@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Alex Ansley

Alex Ansley
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement