U.S. Department of Transportation

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report 26V030

Manufacturer Name: Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
Submission Date: Jan 21, 2026
NHTSA Recall No.: 26V030
Manufacturer Recall No.: 93EA

Manufacturer Information

Manufacturer Name: Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.
Address: 3800 Hamlin Road
Auburn Hills MI, 48326

Population

Total number of potentially involved: 43,881
Estimated percentage with defect: 1%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2023-2025 VOLKSWAGEN ID.4
Product Category: Light Vehicles
Product Type:
Fuel / Propulsion: Electric Battery Power
Production Dates: Sep 02, 2022 - Apr 10, 2025
Number of potentially involved: 43,881
Descriptive Information:
The recall population was determined by vehicle production records. Vehicles included in the recall have no Self-Discharge Detection (SDD) software; vehicles not included in this recall are equipped with the SDD software.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

In rare circumstances, the high-voltage battery modules may experience a thermal propagation, possibly resulting in a vehicle fire.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:

Defective high-voltage battery cell modules may overheat, increasing the risk of a fire.

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Description of the cause:

A joint analysis with the supplier has not led to a clear root cause determination despite extensive cell module and vehicle data analysis. Nevertheless, current analysis results show that certain deviations at the supplier of the battery modules may result in self-discharge.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

Customers may experience a loss of range and/or performance if the recall condition exists in the vehicle. Customers with vehicle concerns are advised to have the vehicle diagnosed by an authorized Volkswagen dealer.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier:

Supplier Type:

Name: VWGoA Inc.(BMCe Software)

Address: 3800 Hamlin Road
Auburn Hills MI, 48326

Country: United States

Tier of Supplier:

Supplier Type:

Name: SK Battery America Inc. (Cell Modules)

Address: 1760 SK Blvd
Commerce GA, 30529

Country: United States

Involved Components

Component Name 1: HV Battery Management Controller (BMCe) SW V.1030

Component Description: HV Battery Management Controller (BMCe) BMCe SW Version 1030

Component Part Number: SW PN: 0Z1.915.184.G

Component Name 2: HV Cell Module

Component Description: HV Cell Module

Component Part Number: 11K.915.592.D/11K.915.599.A/11K.915.599.D

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Chronology

In 2024 and 2025, Volkswagen learned of thermal events for which the root cause was unknown, but where upon on-site investigation by Volkswagen into the vehicle and charging apparatus the area of origin was determined to be within the HV battery. Where possible, the batteries have undergone extensive analysis at Volkswagen's Chattanooga plant and the supplier's facilities.

In June 2025, the supplier conducted a CT analysis of the cell modules from three (3) thermal events and was unable to identify a root cause within the battery cell modules.

In June-July 2025, after the supplier's inconclusive CT Results, VW and the supplier investigated other potential causes/influences within the vehicle but outside of the HV battery. This investigation found no evidence of other potential causes, so the investigation refocused on the HV battery.

After regular back and forth discussions between Volkswagen and the supplier to try to identify the cause of these events, in late September 2025, the supplier performed Tear-Down Analysis of the other damaged cell modules which revealed a "shifted" electrode condition. The supplier then compared this to the previous CT Images and was able to recognize the shifted cathode in the CT images.

In October 2025, Volkswagen voluntarily brought the topic of these thermal incidents to ODI during its quarterly meeting and discussed that it was working with its supplier to finalize root cause, risk assessment, affected population, and countermeasures.

In November 2025, the supplier identified the specific modules with the shifted electrode condition, and based on that, the vehicle population was identified.

On November 26, 2025, the shifted electrode topic was presented to the Volkswagen Product Safety Committee and a recall for vehicles built with affected HV battery cell modules was decided.

On December 3, 2025, Volkswagen filed recall 25V836 with NHTSA.

On December 9, 2025, the supplier provided updated results of its investigation, which found additional HV battery cell modules that were potentially produced with shifted electrodes.

On December 10, 2025, the new information from the supplier was presented to the Volkswagen Product Safety Committee and a recall for additional vehicles built with the additional HV battery cell modules was decided.

On December 15, 2025, Volkswagen amended recall 25V836 with NHTSA.

On December 16, 2025 - January 13, 2026, the supplier identified a second hardware issue from production that potentially could result in a different shifted electrode condition. This issue does not appear to relate to any known field incidents. Volkswagen and supplier discussed the findings, identified potentially affected vehicles, and undertook a risk analysis for this topic.

On January 14, 2026, the second shifted electrode topic was presented to the Volkswagen Product Safety Committee and a recall for vehicles built with affected HV battery cell modules was decided.

At this point, there appear to be thermal incidents outside the ranges identified by the supplier as potentially having a defined hardware anomaly. Despite not having a clear root cause for these incidents, there is data that indicates that self-discharge detection ("SDD") software would have triggered a warning in advance of at least three (3) known incidents.

On January 14, 2026, despite the lack of a clear root cause for the incidents outside of the ranges being recalled for the shifted electrode issues, out of an abundance of caution, the Volkswagen Product Safety Committee decided a recall to conduct a battery health check on all vehicles that do not currently have SDD software, and to install the updated SDD software on those vehicles. Additionally, vehicles with cell modules exhibiting improper behavior will have those affected modules replaced.

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Vehicle data from three (3) failures indicate that the updated software would have detected a potential self-discharge in advance, dating from May 22, June 23, and October 31, 2025. The remedy software may also have prevented other field issues, but the data is inconclusive.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Inspect, Repair, Software

Consumer Advisories: ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

At no cost to owners, Volkswagen will conduct a battery health check inspection and install updated SDD software on vehicles within this campaign, and will replace potentially affected HV battery cell modules, as needed based on the inspection and/or SDD software warning.

Volkswagen will not offer a reimbursement plan under this recall as the recalled vehicles are within the New Vehicle Limited Warranty Period.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

Vehicles outside of the recall population already have SDD software installed.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

ID.4 vehicles with 82kW/h HV batteries were produced with updated BMCe software installed starting January 17, 2024. ID.4 vehicles with 62kW/h HV batteries stopped production before a change to their BMCe software was made.

Reimbursement Plan

Description of reimbursement program:
Volkswagen will not offer a reimbursement plan under this recall as the recalled vehicles are within the New Vehicle Limited Warranty Period.

Period of reimbursement:

Costs to be reimbursed:

Address for reimbursement claims:

Recall Schedule

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Description of recall schedule:

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Jan 23, 2026 - Jan 23, 2026 ☐ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: ☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Mar 20, 2026 - Mar 20, 2026 ☐ Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: Jan 23, 2026