



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V266

Manufacturer Name: Volkswagen Group of America, Inc.

Submission Date: Apr 24, 2026

NHTSA Recall No.: 26V266

Manufacturer Recall No.: 69GT

Manufacturer Information

Population

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

Total number of potentially involved: 7,425
Estimated percentage with defect: 5%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2025-2025 AUDI Q5 SPORTBACK

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Jul 10, 2025 - Dec 03, 2025

Number of potentially involved: 769

Descriptive Information:

The recall population was determined by review of production records.

The recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall because the recalled products are equipped with parts from that specific production period, vehicles not included in the recall are equipped with parts from outside that period.

Vehicle 2: 2025-2025 AUDI Q5

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Jul 13, 2025 - Dec 14, 2025

Number of potentially involved: 5,344

Descriptive Information:

The recall population was determined by review of production records.

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V266

The recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall because the recalled products are equipped with parts from that specific production period, vehicles not included in the recall are equipped with parts from outside that period.

Vehicle 3: 2025-2025 AUDI SQ5 SPORTBACK

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Jul 15, 2025 - Dec 09, 2025

Number of potentially involved: 271

Descriptive Information:

The recall population was determined by review of production records.

The recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall because the recalled products are equipped with parts from that specific production period, vehicles not included in the recall are equipped with parts from outside that period.

Vehicle 4: 2025-2025 AUDI SQ5

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type:

Fuel / Propulsion:

Production Dates: Jul 15, 2025 - Dec 14, 2025

Number of potentially involved: 1,041

Descriptive Information:

The recall population was determined by review of production records.

The recalled products differ from products that were not included in the recall because the recalled products are equipped with parts from that specific production period, vehicles not included in the recall are equipped with parts from outside that period.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

In a crash where the driver and/or front passenger seat belt pretensioner activates, the seat belt may not maintain proper tension, resulting in increased belt slack and reduced restraint performance.

FMVSS1:

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V266

FMVSS2:

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

As a result, the occupant may not be adequately restrained during a crash, increasing the risk of injury.

Description of the cause:

The cause is attributable to variations in the manufacturing process at one of Audi's suppliers, which may limit the locking function of the seat belt after pretensioning.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

NONE

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier:

Supplier Type:

Name: Safety Autoparts Mexico

Address: Carretera Presa La Amistad KM 7
Ciudad Acuña Foreign States

Country: Mexico

Involved Components

Component Name 1: Front seat belt assembly

Component Description: Front seat belt assembly

Component Part Number: 8MA 857 705 L

Component Name 2: Front seat belt assembly

Component Description: Front seat belt assembly

Component Part Number: 8MA 857 706 L

Chronology

November 2025: An irregular Conformity of Production (CoP) test result indicated abnormal locking behavior despite correct pretensioner stroke release, an investigation was initiated.

December 2025: The supplier conducted internal testing, and a sorting and rework process was established. The sealing piston is identified as a potential contributing factor.

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V266

January 2026: Analyses showed that under certain test and crash conditions, reduced locking effectiveness of the pyrotechnic end fitting pretensioner may occur, potentially leading to increased belt slack and reduced restraint performance. The condition was observed in CoP, component, and sled testing. Preliminary root cause hypotheses focused on dimensional deviations and material characteristics of the sealing piston allowing gas blow by after activation. Further analysis and simulations were conducted.

February 2026: Additional testing identified individual components with non-conforming locking behavior. Continued analysis into the affected vehicle population.

On February 24, 2026: An alternative ball lock design was introduced into production at the supplier.

March 2026: Continued sled and dynamic testing identified additional non-conforming locking results and the investigation was expanded to assess potential effects.

April 08, 2026: Audi determined that under specific test and crash conditions, reduced locking effectiveness of the end fitting pretensioner may occur, potentially affecting lap belt restraint performance. The condition was attributed to thermally induced impairment of the locking mechanism due to gas blow by at the sealing piston. Two production periods were identified for focused analysis. No field incidents were reported.

April 17, 2026: Based on consolidated analysis results and confirmed irregular locking behavior within defined production periods, the Audi Product Safety Committee decided to initiate a safety recall.

Audi is not aware of any crashes, fires, injuries or deaths associated with this defect.

Audi is not aware of any claims associated with this defect.

Date of determination: April 17, 2026

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Replace

Consumer Advisories: Do Not Drive Park Outside

Description of remedy program:

At no cost to owners, one or both front seat belts on the driver and front passenger side will be replaced.

A reimbursement plan will not be offered under this recall because the affected vehicles are within the New Vehicle Limited Warranty period.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

The recall remedy component can be distinguished from the recalled component because the replacement components were manufactured in compliance with the applicable technical specifications.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

In February 2026, a ball lock system was introduced in the production process at the responsible

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

26V266

supplier to ensure correct manufacturing of the components.

Reimbursement Plan

Description of reimbursement program:

A reimbursement plan will not be offered under this recall because the affected vehicles are within the New Vehicle Limited Warranty period.

Period of reimbursement:**Costs to be reimbursed:****Address for reimbursement claims:**

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

Planned Dealer Notification Begin Date: 05/01/2026
Planned Dealer Notification End Date: 05/01/2026
Planned REMEDY AVAILABLE Owner Notification Begin Date: On or before 06/23/2026
Planned REMEDY AVAILABLE Owner Notification End Date: On or before 06/23/2026

Planned Dealer Notification Date: May 01, 2026 - May 01, 2026 No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date: No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Jun 23, 2026 - Jun 23, 2026 Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: May 01, 2026