

Emissions Recall

Code: 26N6



REVISION

Subject	Catalyst																		
Release Date	September 24, 2020																		
REVISION SUMMARY	Updated claiming instructions, part information and work instructions with latest catalyst information.																		
Affected Vehicles	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Country</th><th>Beginning Model Year</th><th>Ending Model Year</th><th>Vehicle</th><th>Vehicle Count</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>USA</td><td>2018</td><td>2018</td><td>ATLAS</td><td>42,932</td></tr> <tr> <td>CAN</td><td>2018</td><td>2018</td><td>ATLAS</td><td>7,260</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>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 <u>only</u> valid campaign inquiry & verification source.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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. 				Country	Beginning Model Year	Ending Model Year	Vehicle	Vehicle Count	USA	2018	2018	ATLAS	42,932	CAN	2018	2018	ATLAS	7,260
Country	Beginning Model Year	Ending Model Year	Vehicle	Vehicle Count															
USA	2018	2018	ATLAS	42,932															
CAN	2018	2018	ATLAS	7,260															
Problem Description	Over time and mileage, the factory-installed catalyst may not perform as required. If the effectiveness of the catalyst is reduced, this may result in increased tailpipe emissions and the vehicle could fail an emissions (IM) inspection.																		
Corrective Action	Replace catalyst and update ECM software.																		
Code Visibility	On or about May 19, 2020, the campaign code was applied to affected vehicles.																		
Owner Notification	Owner notification will begin in June 2020. Owner letter examples are included in this bulletin for your reference.																		
Emissions Campaigns Requirements (CALIFORNIA ONLY)	The California Air Resources Board and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) require emissions-related campaigns to be completed prior to vehicle registration renewal. When campaign work is done you must provide the owner with a signed "Vehicle Emission Recall – Proof of Correction" certificate (RC EMISCAVWU). Order certificates online via the Compliance Label Ordering portal at www.vwvhub.com .																		
Additional Information	<p>Please alert everyone in your dealership about this action, including Sales, Service, Parts and Accounting personnel. Contact Warranty if you have any questions.</p> <p>Dealers must ensure that every affected inventory vehicle has this campaign completed <u>before delivery to consumers</u>.</p> <p>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.vwvhub.com.</p>																		

Parts Information

IMPORTANT PARTS INFORMATION

Criteria M1 was added to vehicles that were mailed an official Volkswagen campaign notification. This can be seen in the Campaigns/Actions section in ElsaPro.

Campaigns/Actions						
Serial number	Campaign/Action	Start	Designation	Repair data	Criterion	Campaign/Action Status
1	01C7	2018-08-14	A-RECALL - Vehicle Emissions Control Information (VECI) Label	2018-12-11	01	Closed
2	23X1	2018-07-19	W-UPDATE - ECM Software Update (FED_EMS)	2018-12-11	01	Closed
3	26M4	2020-05-19	A-RECALL - Catalyst	2020-04-07	01	Closed
4	26N6	2020-05-19	A-RECALL - Catalyst		M1, 03	Open

Only orders for customers who have actually received an official Volkswagen campaign notification mailer or have a MIL-on with fault codes P0420 or P0430 will be accepted.

Please see Parts Memorandum from Parts Logistics dated August 20th, 2020 published on Parts on Command for more information.

Parts Control Type: VIN to Order

If parts are needed to support a vehicle repair:

- US Dealers - use AVA
- CAN Dealers - contact the Parts Specialists via phone (800-767-6552), email (VWoAPartsSpecialists@vw.com), or chat/text with the VIN to order

Initial Allocation: YES

Dealers will be sent an initial allocation prior to customer notification. If no initial allocation was received, please reference the Repair Projection Tool (below) to view your potential VIN population.

Repair Projection Tool: (right click to open)



Criteria	Quantity	Part Number	P.O.C. Part Description	Ordering Method
ALL	1	3QF-253-059-PX -or- 3QF-254-500-KX	Exh. Pipe (Catalyst)	VIN to Order
	2	3C0-253-115	Gasket	VIN to Order
	6	N -102-861-08	Nut	VIN to Order
	1	5Q0-253-141	Clamp	VIN to Order
	3	WHT-000-729-A	Bolt	VIN to Order
	1	N -038-549-4	Rivet	VIN to Order

NOTE

The specified part numbers reflect the status at the start of this service action. Interim updates made in ETKA can cause a listed part number to become unavailable. In this case, the new part number specified in ETKA should be used.

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 customer refused campaign work:

- ✓ U.S. dealers: Submit request via WISE under the *Campaigns/Update/Recall Closure* option.
- ✓ Canada dealers: Upload the repair order [signed by customer] to Volkswagen WIN/Operations/Campaign Closure.

Service Number	26N6
Damage Code	0099
Parts Vendor Code	WWO
Claim Type	Sold vehicle: 7 10 Unsold vehicle: 7 90
Causal Indicator	Mark catalyst* as causal part
Vehicle Wash/Loaner	U.S.A.: Loaner/rental coverage cannot be claimed under this action. However, loaner/rental may be covered under the mobility program. Please refer to section 3.30 in the Volkswagen Warranty Policy and Procedures Manual for loaner claims information and reimbursement details. Canada: Loaner/rental coverage cannot be claimed under this action. Please refer to the Volkswagen Service Loaner Program to determine loaner eligibility.

ONLY claim criteria 01 or 02 or 03. DO NOT claim criteria M1 if assigned to the vehicle.

Criteria M1 was added to vehicles that were mailed an official Volkswagen campaign notification.

Criteria I.D.	01 or 02 or 03		
Continued on next page	LABOR		
	Labor Op	Time Units	Description
	2673 55 99	260	Replace catalyst
	2706 89 50	10	Connect battery charger
	2470 25 99	Time stated on diagnostic protocol (Up to 50 T.U.)	Update ECM software
	PARTS		
	Quantity	Part Number	Description
	1.00	3QF253059PX -or- 3QF254500KX	Exh. pipe (Catalyst)*
	2.00	3C0253115	Gasket
	1.00	5Q0253141	Dual clamp
	1.00	N 0385494	Rivet
	6.00	N 10286108	Shouldered hex. nut, self-locking
	3.00	WHT000729A	Hex socket head bolt (combi)

The repair information in this document is intended for use only by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures are not intended to be attempted by "do-it-yourselfers," and you should not assume this document applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Volkswagen dealer. ©2020 Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. and Volkswagen Canada. All Rights Reserved.

-AND-	Add <u>ONLY</u> if exhaust manifold stud(s) break during the repair		
	LABOR		
	Labor Op	Time Units	Description
	2625 01 99	20 (for each broken manifold stud)	Replace broken manifold stud
	PARTS		
	Quantity	Part Number	Description
	Up to 6.00	N 0445203	Stud

Customer Letter Example (United States)

<MONTH YEAR>

<CUSTOMER NAME>

<CUSTOMER ADDRESS>

<CUSTOMER CITY STATE ZIPCODE>

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

Subject: Emissions Recall 26N6 - Catalyst

Dear Volkswagen Owner,

In cooperation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board, we are informing you of our decision to conduct an emissions recall on certain 2018 model year Volkswagen Atlas vehicles. Our records show that you are the owner of a vehicle affected by this action.

What is the issue? Over time and mileage, the factory-installed catalyst may not perform as required. If the effectiveness of the catalyst is reduced, this may result in increased tailpipe emissions and the vehicle could fail an emissions (IM) inspection.

What will we do? Your authorized Volkswagen dealer will replace the catalyst and update the ECM software in your vehicle. This work will take about four (4) 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 repair, as well as to accommodate their daily workshop schedule.

IMPORTANT! If the ECM in your vehicle has been “chipped,” “tuned,” or otherwise modified from original factory specifications with aftermarket components and/or software, work needed to repair, replace, or return the ECM to original factory specifications is NOT covered under this action.

What should you do? Please contact your authorized Volkswagen dealer as soon as possible to schedule this service. To set up an appointment online, please visit www.vw.com/find-a-dealer.

Lease vehicles and address changes If you are the lessor and registered owner of the vehicle identified in this action, please forward this letter immediately via first-class mail to the lessee within ten (10) days of receipt. If you have changed your address or sold the vehicle, please fill out the enclosed prepaid Owner Reply card and mail it to us so we can update our records.

Important information for California Vehicle Owners – California Regulations California regulations require that this campaign be completed prior to the time you renew your vehicle registration. Therefore, **please make sure that this campaign is completed prior to the renewal of your vehicle registration**, and that you furnish proof of completion to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in the form of a copy of the dealer's repair order, including a signed “Proof of Correction” certificate. You obtain this from your dealer after the campaign has been completed. Please retain the signed “Proof of Correction Certificate” with your vehicle records. **DO NOT MAIL THIS FORM** to the DMV, unless requested.

Can we assist you further? If your authorized Volkswagen dealer fails or is unable to complete this work free of charge within a reasonable time, 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.

Checking your vehicle for open Recalls and Service Campaigns 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 vehicle continues to meet and exceed your expectations.

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>

Subject: Emissions Recall 26N6 - Catalyst

Dear Volkswagen Owner,

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999*. Volkswagen has determined that a defect, which relates to a prescribed emission standard, exists in certain 2018 model year Volkswagen Atlas vehicles. Our records show that you are the owner of a vehicle affected by this action.

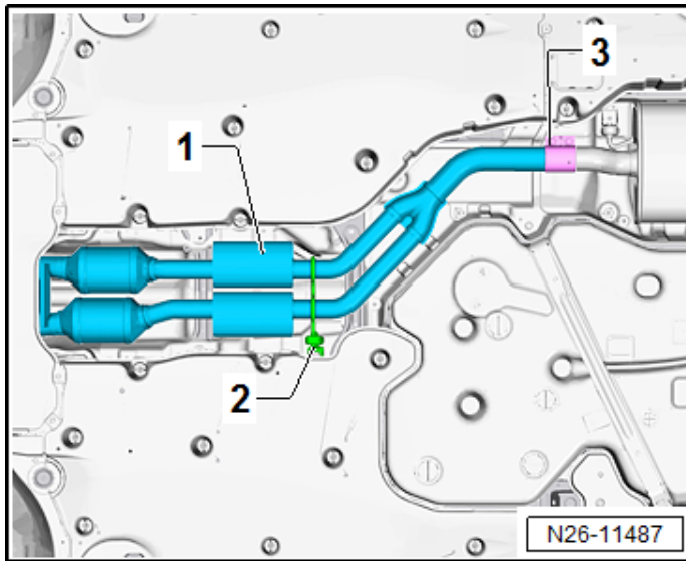
What is the issue?	Over time and mileage, the factory-installed catalyst may not perform as required. If the effectiveness of the catalyst is reduced, this may result in increased tailpipe emissions.
What will we do?	<p>Your authorized Volkswagen dealer will replace the catalyst and update the ECM software in your vehicle. This work will take about four (4) 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 repair, as well as to accommodate their daily workshop schedule.</p> <p>IMPORTANT! If the ECM in your vehicle has been “chipped,” “tuned,” or otherwise modified from original factory specifications with aftermarket components and/or software, work needed to repair, replace, or return the ECM to original factory specifications is NOT covered under this action.</p>
What should you do?	In order to limit any possible inconvenience, please contact your authorized Volkswagen dealer as soon as possible to schedule this service. On or about May 19, 2020 the necessary repair instructions and parts will be available to your authorized Volkswagen dealer.
Lease vehicles and address changes	If you are the lessor and registered owner of the vehicle identified in this action, please forward this letter immediately via first-class mail to the lessee within ten (10) days of receipt. If you have changed your address or sold the vehicle, please fill out the enclosed prepaid Owner Reply card and mail it to us so we can update our records.
Can we assist you further?	If your authorized Volkswagen dealer fails or is unable to complete this work free of charge within a reasonable time, 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 vehicle continues to meet and exceed your expectations.

Sincerely,

Volkswagen Customer Protection

Repair Overview



- Replace catalyst and update ECM software.

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 Special Tools

 <p>Elbow Assembly Tool -T10118-</p>	 <p>Ring Wrench 7-Piece Set -3337- (or equivalent)</p>
 <p>Battery Tester/Charger - GRX3000VAS- (or equivalent)</p>	 <p>Diagnostic Tester -VAS6150X/VAS6160X- (or equivalent)</p>

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 ← 2	Open ← 1

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.

Campaign/Action	Start	Designation
→ 3	2015-11-10	W-SERV_ACT -
	2018-12-13	RECALL -
	2017-05-16	A-RECALL -

EXAMPLE

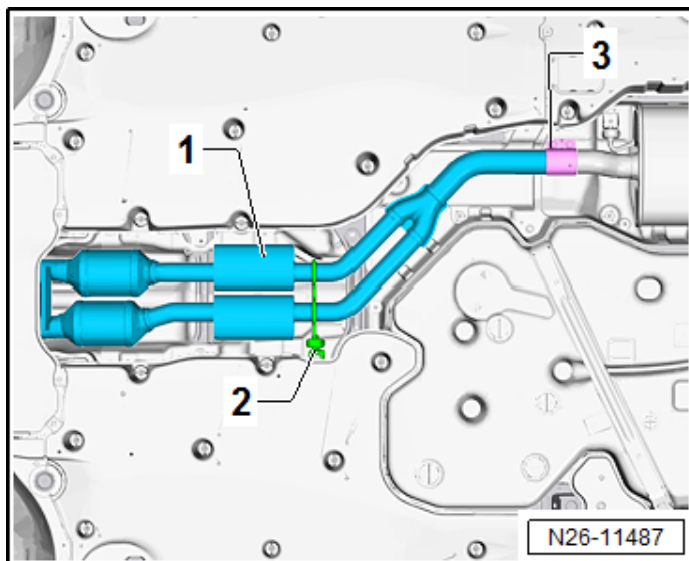
CRITICAL REPAIR STEP

 **STOP!** 

If multiple software update Campaign/Actions are open, they must be performed in order of the Start date <arrow 3>. The oldest should be performed first.

- All Safety Recalls must be completed prior to completing this campaign.**
- Proceed to Section B**

Section B – Replacing Catalyst



- See ELSA Repair Manual: *Repair Manual > Engine > 6-Cylinder Direct Injection (3.6L Engine, 4V) > 26 Exhaust System, Emission Controls > Emissions Control System > Catalytic Converter, Removing and Installing*
- After replacing the catalyst:
 - **Proceed to Section C to update the ECM software.**

CAUTION

Risk of Consequential Damage

- All exhaust nuts must be soaked with penetrating oil prior to removal to avoid exhaust stud breakage.
- All exhaust nuts should be removed using hand tools and not impact tools.
- Any rusted fastener should also be soaked with penetrating oil to avoid breakage.

Note the following when replacing the catalyst:

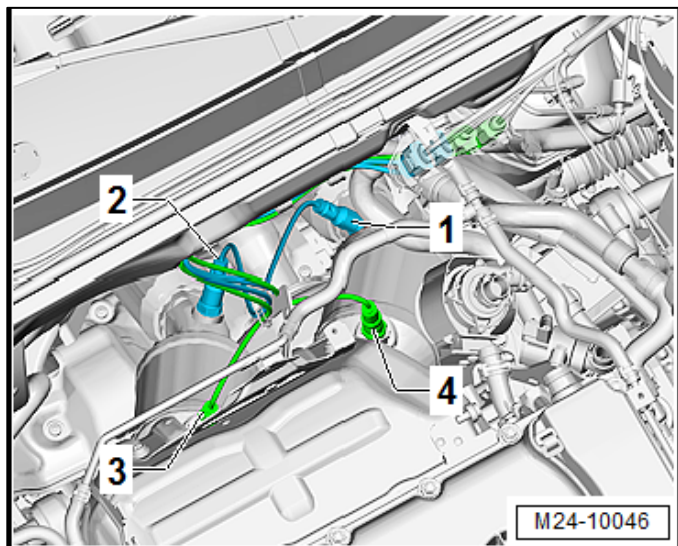
NOTE

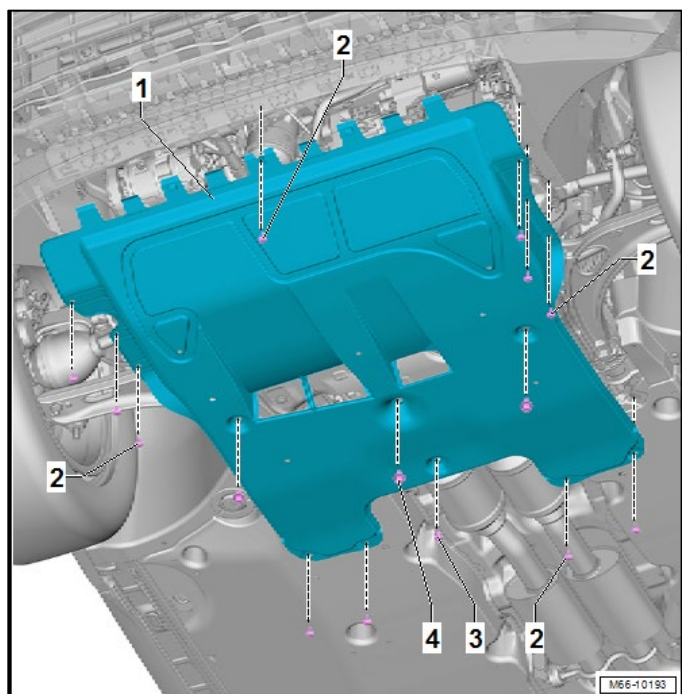
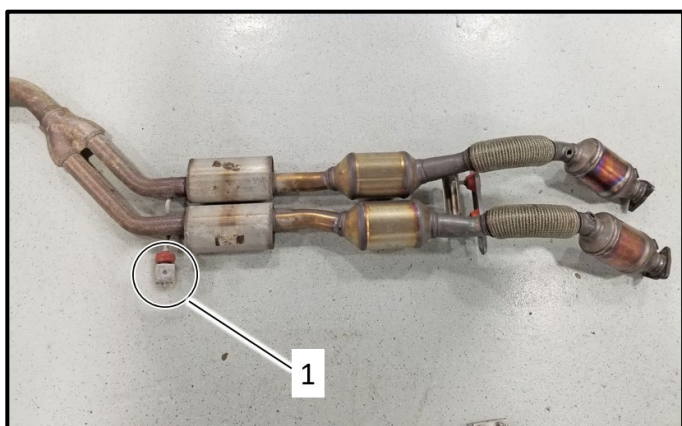
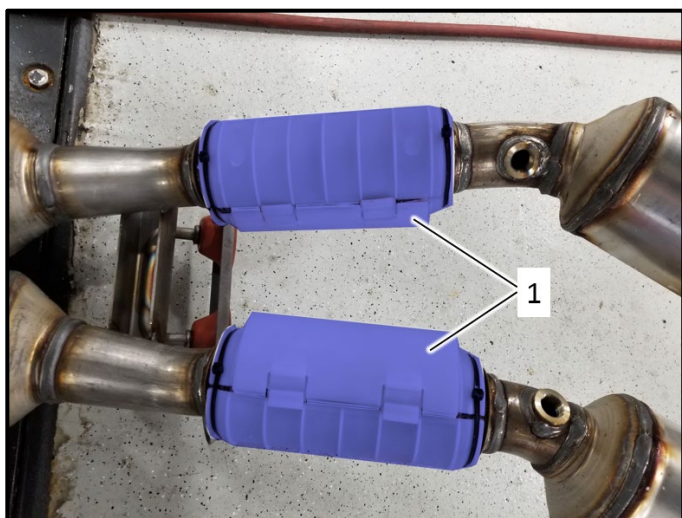
Oxygen sensors <1>, <3> and <4> can be removed with tools from the Ring Wrench 7-Piece Set -3337-.

Oxygen sensor <2> will have to be removed with a locally sourced oxygen sensor socket.

TIP

Take photos of the connector positions or mark the connectors as needed.





⚠ CAUTION

Danger of causing damage to the decoupling element!

Do not bend the decoupling element more than 10°. Do not damage the wire mesh on the decoupling element.

- Ensure the transportation protection <1> is secured on the new catalyst before installing.
- After installing and securing the catalyst to the exhaust manifold, remove the transportation protection from the catalysts.
- If the new catalyst is not equipped with a rear hanger, transfer the rear exhaust hanger <1> from the removed catalyst to the new catalyst.

- A new expanding rivet <3> must be installed when reinstalling the noise insulation.

Part Number	Part Description
N -038-549-4	Expanding rivet

ⓘ NOTE

This rivet is required to prevent noise and to prevent debris from building up on the top of the noise insulation.

Section C – Engine Control Module Software Update

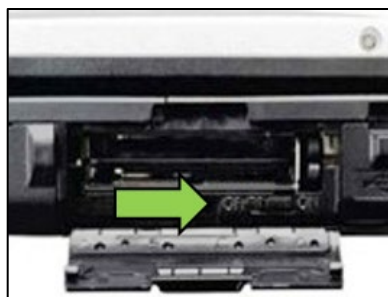
NOTE

Prior to launching the VAS Diagnostic Tester and starting an update, ensure the following conditions are met;

- ✓ **The ODIS software is completely up to date.**
 - Refer to the “Alerts” section on ServiceNet home page for the current ODIS version.
- ✓ **The battery charger is connected to the vehicle battery and remains connected for the duration of the software update.**
 - Battery voltage must remain above 12.5 volts for the duration of the software update. Failure to do so may cause the update to fail, which could result in damage to the control module. Control modules damaged by insufficient voltage will not be covered.
- ✓ **The screen saver and power saving settings are off.**
 - Failure to do so may result in the tester entering power save mode during the software update, which could result in damage to the control module.
- ✓ **The VAS Diagnostic Tester is plugged in using the supplied power adapters.**
 - Under no circumstances should the tester be used on battery power alone during the software update. Failure to do so may result in the tester powering off during the update, which could result in damage to the control module.
- ✓ **If using a Bluetooth transmitter head, it is connected to the tester with a USB cable.**
 - Performing a software update using a Bluetooth connection increases the risk of losing connection during the update, which could result in damage to the control module. It also greatly increases the time required to perform the update. Requests for additional time or parts will be denied if the GFF log shows the update was performed using Bluetooth.
- ✓ **The Bluetooth function of the scan tool is physically switched off <see pictures below>.**



VAS 6150 & VAS 6150A
(Front panel behind handle)



VAS 6150B
(Right side behind WIRELESS door)



VAS 6150C/D
(Left side behind SC/EX door)

WARNING

Radiator Fan(s) may cycle ON high speed during the Update Process! There is a serious risk that personal injury may result if contact is made with spinning fan blades. Keep hands and all objects away from Radiator Fan(s) during Update Process!

TIP

To Update-Programming using SVM, review and follow instructions in Technical Bulletin 2014603: *Software Version Management (SVM) Operating Instructions*.

The SVM Process must be completed in its entirety so the database receives the update confirmation response. A warranty claim may not be reimbursed if there is no confirmation response to support the claim.

- Open the hood.
- Open the battery cover.
- Switch the ignition on.
- Apply the parking brake.
- Switch off all consumers (headlights, heated seats, climate control, etc.).
- Connect the VAS6150X/VAS6160X Diagnostic Tester to the vehicle.
- Start the ODIS program.
- Attach the GRX3000VAS Tester/Charger (or equivalent) to the vehicle battery.

NOTE

Vehicles with Battery Monitoring Control Module -J367- and/or an EFB Battery:

When connecting the charger to the battery, connect the positive cable to the positive terminal of the battery and connect the negative cable to the grounding lug on the chassis. DO NOT connect the ground cable directly to negative terminal of the battery.

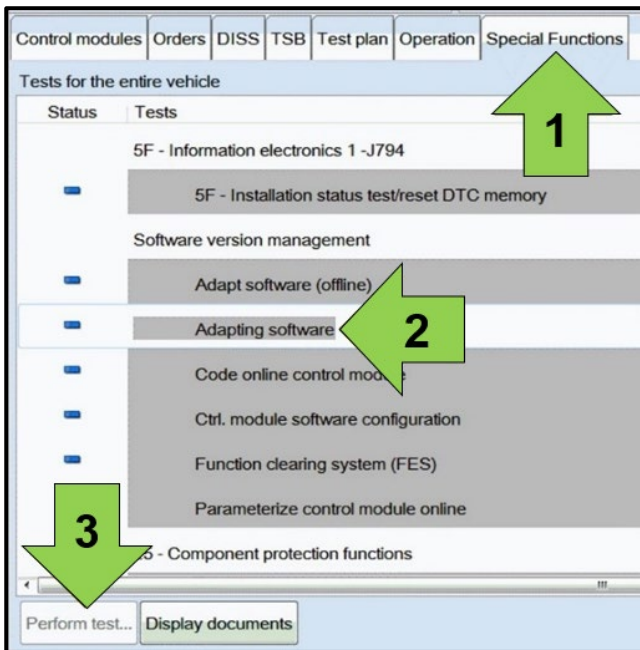
- Turn the hazards on.

CAUTION

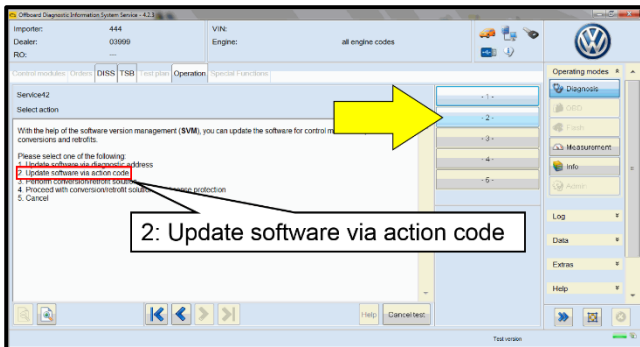
The procedure may cancel itself if the hazard warning lights are not switched on. The hazard warning lights prevent the system from switching to bus sleep mode during the update.



- Confirm that scan tool is communicating with the diagnostic head by USB <Green Arrow>.
 - If the Bluetooth symbol is shown <Red Arrow> then disconnect the diagnostic head from the vehicle and reconnect the USB cable to the diagnostic head and then reattach to the vehicle.
- Upon ODIS startup, verify the "Diagnosis" operating mode is selected <as shown>.
- Once the GFF scan is complete, select "Special functions" <arrow 1>, then "Adapting software" <arrow 2>, then select "Perform test" <arrow 3>.

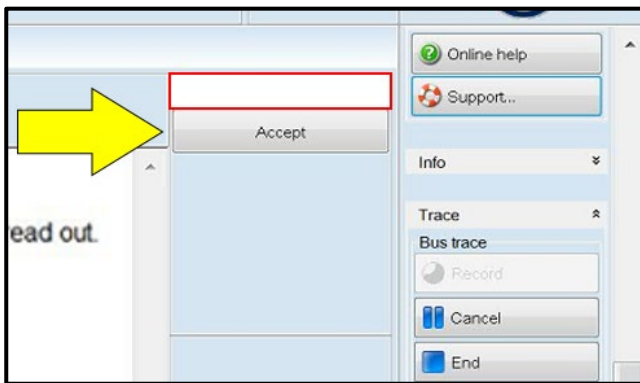


- Select option 2 to "Update software via action (or measure) code".



NOTE

The procedure to update the software may not always be option 1.



NOTE

Using Bluetooth or WiFi for this action is PROHIBITED!

Damage caused to electronic components (e.g. ECM, TCM, etc.) during the SVM flash process is not covered.

- Enter the corrective action code (SVM code) as listed below.

SVM code

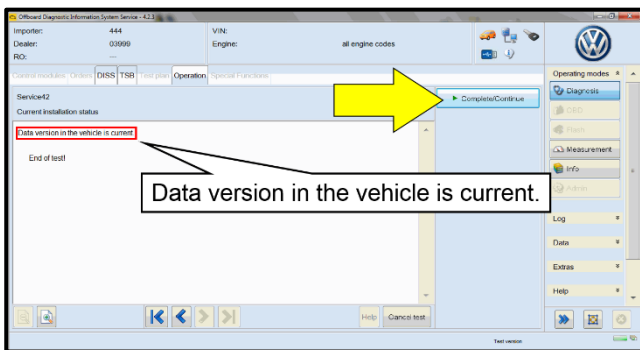
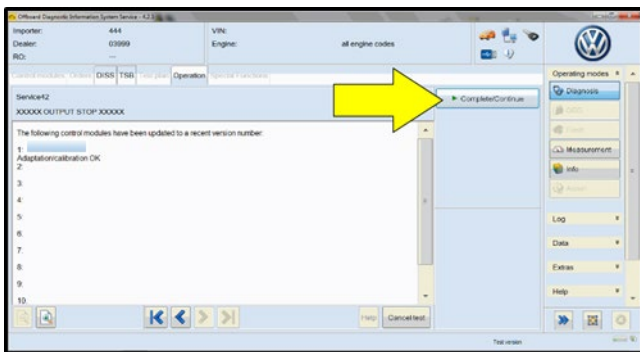
43E7

- Select "Accept" <arrow> and follow the on screen prompts.

TIP

This software update also includes modifications for: DTCs P0456, P2096, P2097, P2098, and P2099.

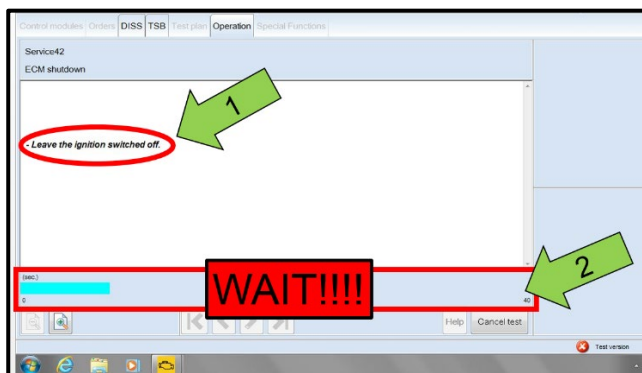
- Select Complete/Continue <arrow> after each operation is completed.



- When the SVM update is complete a confirmation message is displayed <as shown>.
- Select "Complete/Continue" <arrow>.

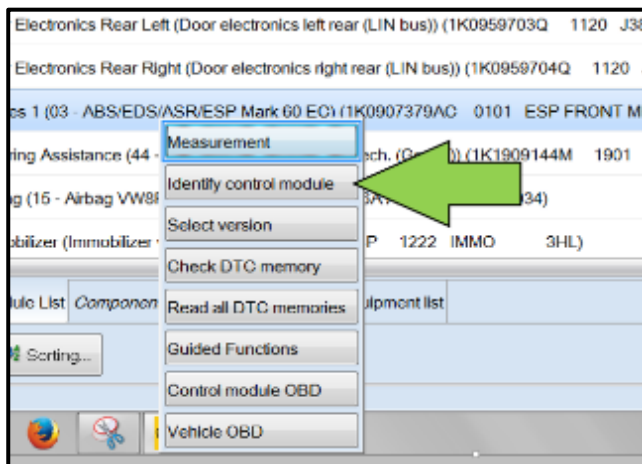
TIP

If the software in the vehicle is already current, a message may appear indicating this. If this occurs, complete the ODIS test plan and send the diagnostic protocol online.

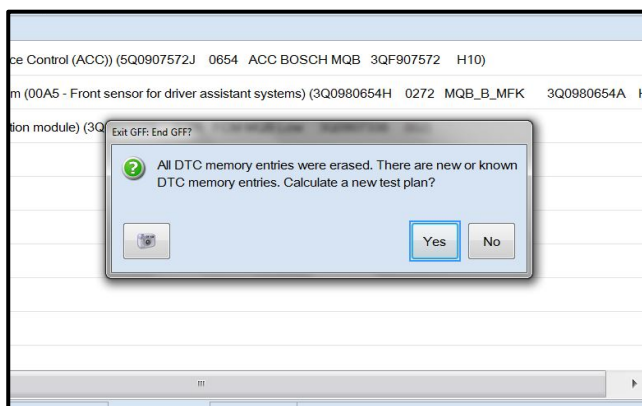


NOTE

- It is **IMPERATIVE** that **ALL** of the ignition cycle on/off delay requests are fulfilled in their entirety during this flash process <arrow 1>.
- Failing to wait for the ignition on/off timing cycle to complete (progress bar and countdown timer <arrow 2>) before cycling the ignition on/off MAY damage a control module.
- Damage to control modules as a result of failing to wait the specified time displayed by the progress bar and countdown timer <arrow 2> are **NOT** covered under this action.



- After the software update is completed and before sending the GFF Log Online:
 - Select the "Control Module" tab.
 - Scroll down and right click on the module that was updated (0001).
 - Select "Identify Control Module" <arrow>.



- Exit GFF and send diagnostic protocol online when prompted.

NOTE

Static communication faults may store in various control modules during the flash. These faults can only be cleared by following one of these steps:

- Drive the vehicle a short distance (around the parking lot, for example).
- After selecting "Yes", turn the ignition off for 30 seconds, turn it back on and repeat the GFF exit program.
- Clear faults using OBD (an additional key cycle may also be required).

- Release the parking brake.
- Disconnect the VAS tester.
- Switch off and disconnect the battery charger.
- Reinstall the battery cover.

Proceed to Section D.

Section D – 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

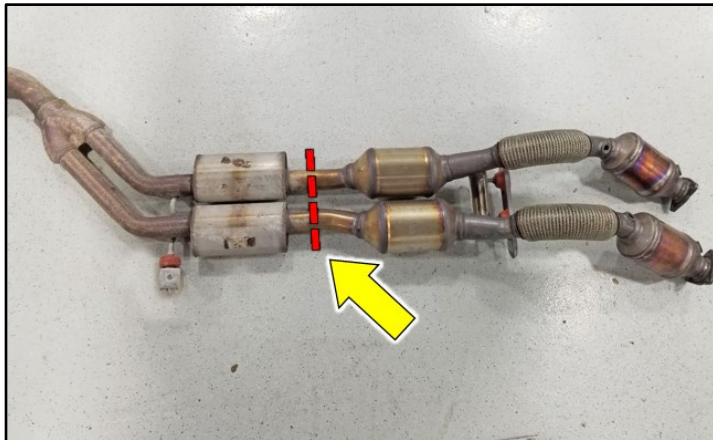
Ensure Campaign Completion Label does not cover any existing label(s).

Proceed to Section E

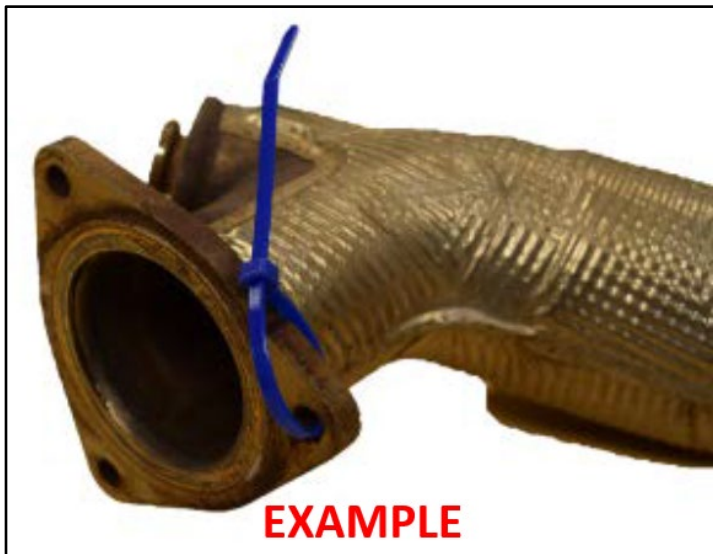
Section E - Parts Return/Disposal

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.

IMPORTANT CORE RETURN INFORMATION



The catalysts **MUST** be separated from the exhaust system for recycling. Cut the exhaust pipe between the muffler and the catalyst in the area shown <arrow>.



The Catalyst must be tagged with a red or blue zip tie <as shown> and returned in order to be considered for core charge reimbursement.

Contact your facing PDC if red or blue zip ties are needed.

Catalyst replacements done under this action will be in Scrap/Core immediately once the claim is approved in SAGA.

Proceed to Section F (California only).

Section F – California Only Requirements

CALIFORNIA ONLY Requirements for Emissions Campaigns Having Customer Notification

The California Air Resources Board and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) require emissions-related campaigns to be completed prior to vehicle registration renewal. **When campaign work is done you must provide the owner with a signed “Vehicle Emission Recall – Proof of Correction” certificate (RC EMIS_CAL VW).** Certificates can be ordered at no cost online via the Compliance Label Ordering portal at www.vwhub.com.



TIP

Ensure owners are aware of the importance of retaining the completed certificate for their records. It should be mailed to the California DMV only upon request.