

# ODI RESUME

INVESTIGATION: EA92-028  
 SUBJECT: Transmission failures  
 PROMPTED BY: PE92-041

DATE CLOSED: 09-Feb-92

PRINCIPAL ENGINEER/INVESTIGATOR: C. Tinto *C-1*  
 DID INVESTIGATOR: J. Abbott *J. ABBOTT*  
 MANUFACTURER: Volkswagen of America, Inc.  
 MODEL(S): All Audi models with automatic transmission

MODEL YEARS: 1985-1991

VEHICLE POPULATION: Approx 152,000

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

BASIS:	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	14	10	24
ACCIDENTS:	1	1	2
INJ ACCID:	1	0	1
# INJURIES:	1	0	1
FAT ACCID:	0	0	0
# FATAL INJ:	0	0	0
WARRANTY:	0	11	11

ACTION: Audi is recalling the subject vehicles (93V-006). This Engineering Analysis is closed.

BRCH CHF

*Richard Boyd*

DIV CHF

*Louis Brown*

OFC DIR

*[Signature]*

*February 8, 1993*  
DATE

*2/9/93*  
DATE

*2/9/93*  
DATE

SUMMARY: Consumers alleged that the drive wheels locked on their vehicles while the car was traveling at highway speeds, causing the vehicle to skid to an abrupt and uncontrolled stop. It is alleged that the incidents occurred suddenly, without any warning.

Audi has determined that some of the oil lubricating the differential gears of the vehicle's transaxle could be lost due to evaporation over time. A low oil level in the differential could cause premature bearing and gear wear and eventual failure of the differential. In the event of failure, the vehicle's drive wheels could lose power and in extreme circumstances become locked. Sudden front wheel lockup could decelerate the vehicle very rapidly which could affect its control or cause an accident.

Audi of America, Inc. will initiate a safety recall campaign, instructing Audi dealers to drain the gear oil from the differential and replace it with a high performance gear oil which has improved evaporation characteristics, greater heat resistance and improved lubrication. In addition, dealers and owners will be informed of a revised maintenance schedule requiring the checking and replenishing of the gear oil, if necessary, at 15,000 mile intervals. The recall will cover 1985-1991 80, 90, 100, 200, 4000, 5000, and Coupe models manufactured between October 1984 through June 1991.

*JAD*  
*2/14/93*