

VOLKSWAGEN

GROUP OF AMERICA

Mr. Daniel Smith
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
Attention: Recall Management Division (NVS-215)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

CHRISTOPHER T. SANDVIG NAME
GENERAL MANAGER COMPLIANCE/TREAD TITLE
PRODUCT COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT
248-754-5000 PHONE
248-754-5093 FAX
APRIL 4, 2012 DATE

Subject: Notification of Voluntary Recall
2012 MY Volkswagen Passat Equipped with 2.0L TDI Clean Diesel Engine
Diesel Fuel Filter Element

VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA, INC.
3800 HAMLIN ROAD
AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326
PHONE +1 248 754 5000

Dear Mr. Smith:

This information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (49 CFR 573 (2012)).

573.6 (c) (1) **Manufacturer's Name**
Volkswagen Group of America Chattanooga Operations, LLC

Importer
Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. (VWGoA)

573.6 (c) (2) **Identification of Vehicles**

Make : Volkswagen

Line : Passat

Model Year : 2012

Month/Year
of Manufacture : January 2011 through June 2011

VIN Numbers
of Affected Vehicles : 1VW__A3_CC000123 – 1VW__A3_CC002095

Other Identification : Vehicles equipped with 2.0L TDI Common Rail Diesel Engine / Clean Diesel Engine

573.6 (c) (3) **Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect**
153 vehicles are affected by this recall in the United States.

573.6 (c) (4) **Percentage of Vehicles Actually Containing the Defect**
Volkswagen is unable to determine the exact percentage of vehicles affected by this defect. Volkswagen notes other vehicles built for the United States market with a 2.0L TDI Clean Diesel engine are not affected because they are built with a fuel filter from a different supplier.

573.6 (c) (5)

Description of Defect

The affected vehicles were potentially built with a diesel fuel filter element that may not seal correctly. This was caused by a small number of semi-finished elements that became wet during transport from one plant to another plant. The new plant dried the material in a way that the sealing surface of the filter insert could have been deformed, and these parts were used for the complete filter assembly. Volkswagen is unable to determine which vehicles may exhibit the condition, as not all elements are affected in the same way, and only a small percentage of them could leak over time or after certain driving distances.

Volkswagen is not aware of any fire, crash or injury caused by this issue.

573.6 (c) (6)

Basis for Determination

- In September 2011 Volkswagen received information on single cases of leaking diesel fuel filters from the European markets for models sold there. The cause couldn't be determined at that time.
- In October and November 2011 Volkswagen received additional complaints on leaking diesel fuel filters from Europe and Asia. A detailed analysis of the cause and an on-site visit to the supplier revealed that during some yet undetermined periods of time deformed filter elements were produced.
- In December 2011 Volkswagen received the first single incident report on fuel leakage from a diesel fuel filter from the U.S. market. At that time it could not be determined whether this case related to the periods of time during which deformed filter elements were produced.
- In December 2011 and January 2012 additional investigation was carried out to identify the affected filter elements and to identify possibly affected production plants and vehicles.
- In February and March the logistic chain was finally confirmed and Volkswagen was able to identify the affected production plants, models and vehicle production period in which affected filters could have been installed in vehicles. It was determined that the affected filter elements could have been installed on vehicles in the time from January 18, 2011 through June 01, 2011. It was further determined that the 153 vehicles, produced in Volkswagen's U.S. plant in Chattanooga, were potentially equipped with a defective filter.
- On March 28, 2012 the product safety committee at Volkswagen AG made the decision for a recall to replace possibly affected fuel filter elements.

573.6 (c) (7)

Noncompliance Test Result

Not applicable

573.6 (c) (8)

Proposed Remedial Program

When sufficient quantities of diesel fuel filter elements are available, Volkswagen plans to notify all owners of affected vehicles and will instruct them to arrange for an appointment with an authorized dealer. Dealers will replace the diesel fuel filter elements of the affected vehicles for customers free of charge.

Pending parts availability, mailing dates are anticipated as follows:

Dealers: On or about May 2012

Owners: On or about May 2012

573.6 (c) (9)

Submission of Communications

A representative copy of all bulletins and other communications sent to dealers and owners will be submitted within five (5) days of dealer/owner notification.

573.6 (c) (10)

Proposed Owner Letter

A draft owner's letter will be submitted to the agency for review and approval.

573.6 (c) (11) **Manufacturer's Recall Code**
VWGoA has assigned the code 20R7/W3 to this recall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CT Sandvig', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christopher T. Sandvig
General Manager-Compliance/TREAD