# **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

Subject: Notification of Voluntary Recall

2011 MY Volkswagen Jetta (6<sup>th</sup> Generation)

Converter Box Wiring

CHRISTOPHER T. SANDVIG NAME

GENERAL MANAGER COMPLIANCE/TREAD TITLE

PRODUCT COMPLIANCE DEPARTMENT

248-754-5000 PHONE

248-754-5093 FAX

MARCH 25, 2011 DATE

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 (2011)).

573.6 (c) (1) Manufacturer's Name

Volkswagen de Mexico, A.A. de C.V.

Importer

Volkswagen Group of America, Inc. (VWGoA)

573.6 (c) (2) Identification of Vehicles

Make : Volkswagen

Line : Jetta (6<sup>th</sup> Generation)

Model Year : 2011

Month/Year

of Manufacture : March 2010 through March 2011

**VIN Numbers** 

of Affected Vehicles: 3VW\_\_7AJ\_BM002870 - 3VW\_\_7AJ\_BM367561

Other Identification: None

573.6 (c) (3) Number of Vehicles Potentially Containing the Defect

71,043 Jetta (6th Generation) vehicles are affected by this recall in the United

States.

573.6 (c) (4) Percentage of Vehicles Actually Containing the Defect

100% of Jetta (6th Generation) vehicles produced from March 2010 through

March 2011 contain the defect.

## 573.6 (c) (5) Description of Defect

The affected Jetta (6<sup>th</sup> Generation) vehicles have an electrical wiring and fuse layout where the converter box is protected by the same fuse used by the signal horn and the anti-theft alarm system. If the fuse is blown (e.g. in case of an electrical short in the horn), the converter box is disconnected from the power supply which, in turn, shuts off applications such as the engine management system, lighting system, and wipers. Should this happen while the vehicle is being driven, the engine could stall, or the headlights or wipers could turn off unexpectedly, potentially leading to a crash without warning.

Volkswagen has not identified any reports or allegations of a crash or actual injury resulting from this condition.

## 573.6 (c) (6) Basis for Determination

- On December 24, 2010, a Volkswagen Group of America service employee prepared a report about a vehicle that experienced intermittent engine stalling. From today's knowledge, this report is directly related to the defect.
- In the following weeks, other vehicles experiencing the same symptom were identified and inspected by Volkswagen Group of America and these findings were reported back to Volkswagen de Mexico, A.A. de C.V. (the manufacturer).
- In February and March of 2011, continued analysis of the wiring and fuse layout in affected vehicles and the potential effect of electrical shorts revealed the condition as described above.
- In March 2011, the wiring layout in production was modified, using separate fuses for the
  converter box, horn and anti-theft alarm system. At the same time, the issue was
  presented to the product safety committee at Volkswagen AG.
- On March 18, 2011, the product safety committee at Volkswagen AG determined that a safety defect existed and decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall campaign.

#### 573.6 (c) (7) Noncompliance Test Result

Not applicable

## 573.6 (c) (8) Proposed Remedial Program

When sufficient quantities of repair kits 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 separate the wiring for the horn and the theft protection horn from the power supply of the converter box and route the wires to separate fuses to correct this condition free of charge. Pending parts availability, mailing dates are anticipated as follows:

Dealers: May 2011 Owners: May 2011

## 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 97V3/U9 to this recall.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Sandvig

General Manager Compliance/TREAD