

Safety Research Report Index - VW/Audi Sudden Acceleration

A. BACKGROUND

1. "Inquiry on Auto Acceleration Expanded by U.S.," New York Times, 2/23/86.
2. "Cars That Speed Up Mysteriously Spark Bitter Dispute Over Cause," Wall Street Journal, 9/3/86.
3. "NHTSA Stonewall" & "NHTSA Accused of 'Do-Nothing' Investigations; 'Driver Error' Blamed for GM, Ford Runaway Cars," FuelLine, 11/86.
4. "Sudden Acceleration Puts NHTSA to 15-Year Test," Automotive News, 2/16/87.
5. "Runaway Cars," series of articles, Detroit News, 12/13/87-12/17/87.
6. "Runaway Cars?" Newsday, 7/26/88.
7. "1982-88 Caddys Called Runaways," Automotive News, 1/30/89.
8. "NHTSA Announces Results of 'Sudden Acceleration' Study," DOT Press Release, 3/7/89.
9. "Some Cars' Sudden Acceleration is Tied in U.S. Study to Pedal Misapplication," Wall Street Journal, 3/8/89.
10. "Sudden Acceleration Linked to Driver Pedal Misapplication," IHS Status Report, 4/22/89.
11. "Car Plows into Park, Killing 3 & Injuring Dozens," New York Times, 4/24/92.
12. "Car Kills Woman At Market," Post-Standard, 5/15/92.
13. "'Sudden Acceleration' May Be the Cause of Recent Accidents...," Corporate Crime Reporter, 5/25/92.
14. IMPACT & Lemon Times articles, 1984-1992.

B. ATTORNEYS

C. EXPERTS

D. NHTSA

1. List of sudden acceleration recalls.
2. Representative John Dingell to NHTSA re: sudden acceleration, 1/19/88; NHTSA response, 4/4/88. (with Attachment B- JAMA Announcement; Attachment E-Chronology of NHTSA's Actions)

E. TECHNICAL MATERIAL

1. R.H. Espeland et al., NHTSA, "Investigation Of Electromagnetic Interference Effects On Motor Vehicle Electronic Control And Safety Devices," 10/75.
2. R.L. Ruhl, Ruhl & Associates, "Sudden Acceleration Fact Sheet," circa 1987.
3. M. Gunnerhed, Swedish Defence Research Establishment, "Risk Assessment of Cruise Control," 5/88.
4. P. Marriner & J. Granery, Transport Canada, "Investigation of 'Sudden Acceleration' Incidents," 12/88.
5. K. Carlsen, et al., Boeing, "Sneak analysis, Boeing's Electrical Systems Engineering Quality Program Applied to the Automotive Industry," 8/89.
6. NHTSA, "Examination of Sudden Acceleration," 1/89.
7. W. Rosenbluth, Automotive Systems Analysis, "Pursuing Unwanted Acceleration - Myths, Vapors & Verification," 7/90.
8. B. Brown, Mechanical Damage Inspections, "Fuel Injection Systems," 12/4/91.

F. AUDI BACKGROUND

I. General

1. "Audi 5000 Recalled to Fix Brake, Accelerator Problem," Associated Press, circa 1982.
2. "US Is Asked To Order Recall Of Audi Autos," Wall Street Journal, 3/20/86.
3. "State May Urge Audi Recall," Washington Post, 5/11/86.
4. "Auto Safety Group Assails Audi Order," Washington Post, 5/31/86.
5. "U.S. Safety Agency Expands Its Probe of Certain Audis," Wall Street Journal, 6/26/86.
6. "A Fatal Flaw in the Audi?," Consumer Reports, 7/86.
7. "The Issue of Unintended Acceleration: Audi's Positive Response," Audi of America, 9/86.
8. "New Incidents Lead to Call for Halt in Audi 5000 Sales," Automotive News, 11/10/86.
9. "Out of Control," CBS "60 Minutes" transcript, 11/23/86.
10. "Audi Won't Recall its Runaways" & "Audi to Discuss Acceleration Jan. 16," Automotive News, 12/29/86.
11. "Acceleration Incidents Shake Up Audi," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, 1/21/87.
12. "Audi Shifts Stance on Mystery Accidents," Los Angeles Herald, 1/23/87.
13. "\$5000 Discounts Offered to Owners," Automotive News, 3/30/87.
14. "Is Half a Recall Better Than None?" Consumer Reports, 4/87.
15. "Group Faults Audi Shift Lock for 5000 Series," Wall Street Journal, 7/30/87.
16. "Audi Discloses 396 Complaints on Recall 5000's," Wall Street Journal, 3/31/88.

17. "Wrong-Pedal Syndrome Challenged," Washington Post, 6/30/88.

II. Audi Victims Network

18. "Audi Unintentionally Starts a Drive," Long Island Newsday, 6/24/86.
19. "Attorneys General Petitioned to Halt Deceptive Advertising by Audi," Audi Victims Network Press Release, Letter to New York Attorney General, 4/12/88, attachment.
20. Audi Victims Network letter to Audi owners encouraging them to opt out of class action settlement, 6/6/88.

III. Analysis/Reports

21. "How Safe is the Audi 5000?" Boston Globe Magazine, 11/9/86.
22. "Unintended Acceleration: The Story 60 Minutes Could Have Told," AutoWeek, 1/19/87.
23. "Audi Agonistes, Cutting Through All Hype & Hysteria in Search of the Truth About Unintended Acceleration," Car & Driver, 6/87.
24. "Shifting the Blame: Report on Sudden Acceleration in the Audi 5000," New York PIRG, 7/28/87. (Executive Summary)
25. "Audi Runaway Problem, Responsibility v. Public Relations," Trial, 12/89.

G. CENTER FOR AUTO SAFETY

1. News release, groups seek recall of runaway Audis, 3/19/86.
2. CAS to NHTSA, 3/29/86.
3. News release, accidents since submission of recall petition 4/21/86; CAS to NHTSA, 4/21/86.
4. News release, latest fatality & call to ban Illinois sales of Audi 5000s, 5/8/86; CAS to NHTSA, 5/8/86; CAS to Illinois Attorney General, 5/8/86.
6. News release, opposing planned VWoA recall for non-mechanical problems, 5/29/86.
7. News release, NHTSA upgrades Audi investigation status, 6/12/86.
8. News release, "Audi Wins 1986 Hubbard Award for Anti-Consumer Automobile Ad," 6/16/86.
9. News release, NHTSA investigation expands, 6/25/86.
10. News release & letter to NHTSA Administrator, "Sudden acceleration accidents occur in modified Audi 5000's," 11/6/86 & 11/7/86; follow-up letters to NHTSA, 11/19/86 & 11/25/86.
11. News release & letter to DOT Secretary, "Repurchase of 227,000 Audi 5000s Sought Under Safety Act," 11/19/86.
12. News release, "Audi 5000 Accident Toll Soars to 1400; Audi 5000 Accident Rate Now One for Every 180 Cars Sold," 2/17/87.
13. CAS to NHTSA, 2/18/87.
14. CAS to NHTSA, 2/23/87.
15. News release, "Audi Wins 1988 Hubbard Award," 6/16/88. (with attachment)
16. News release, "Consumer Groups Tell Audi Class Action Members to Opt Out," 6/29/88.
17. "Audi Sudden Acceleration," Automobile Design Liability, 3rd Ed., 6/91.

H. NHTSA INVESTIGATIONS

1. NHTSA to VWoA, circa 1979, VWoA's 6/6/79 inspection report sent to NHTSA 1/14/87.
2. EA82-002: 1978-1981 Audi 5000
 - a. NHTSA to VWoA, request for information, 11/3/81; VWoA response, 12/22/81; VWoA response, 4/14/82.
 - b. VWoA to NHTSA, 1/7/82.
3. Recall Audit 83-02 (82V-037)
 - a. NHTSA to VWoA, brake pedal placement, 8/12/83.
4. Recall Audit 84-04 (82V-037)
 - a. Consumer to Audi, 7/19/82; Minnesota Dept. of Consumer Affairs to NHTSA, 7/21/82; NHTSA to VWoA, 8/82; VWoA internal correspondence, 8/10/82.
 - b. NHTSA to Audi owners, survey to evaluate Audi non-mechanical recall, 2/22/85.
5. PE85-046/EA85-037: 1985-86 Audi 5000
 - a. NHTSA to VWoA, 5/24/85.
 - b. NHTSA upgrade memo, 7/30/85.
 - c. VWoA response, 7/12/85.
 - d. NHTSA to VWoA, 10/31/85.
 - e. VWoA response, 1/13/86.
 - f. NHTSA to VWoA, 5/23/86.
 - g. VWoA response, 8/13/86.
 - (h. See Recall 87V-157)
6. DP86-06/PE86-010/EA86-016: 1978-86 Audi 5000
 - a. CAS to NHTSA, request for investigation, 9/25/85; NHTSA response, 10/21/85; CAS

- follow-up, 11/13/85; NHTSA response, open PE86-010.
- b. NHTSA memo, 11/7/85.
- c. NHTSA to VW oA, 11/25/85
- d. VWoA response, 1/14/86.
- e. NYPIRG, CAS, NY Attorney General, & Alice Weinstein, Defect & Recall Petition, 3/19/86 (selected attachments); NHTSA response, 6/23/86.
- f. CAS to NHTSA, 6/10/86; NHTSA response, 7/3/86.
- g. NHTSA to VW oA, 5/14/86.
- h. VWoA response, 6/4/86. (with attachment)
- i. Illinois Attorney General to NHTSA, defect petition, 5/28/86 (selected attachments); NHTSA response, 6/24/86.
- j. Ohio Attorney General to NHTSA, 6/10/86; NHTSA response, 7/17/86.
- k. Upgrade resume, 5/30/86.
- l. NHTSA to VW oA, 6/12/86.
- m. NHTSA to CAS, 6/25/86.
- n. NHTSA memo regarding meeting with VWoA, 7/2/86.
- o. VWoA response, 7/29/86.
- p. NHTSA to CAS, 7/29/86.
- q. Private expert William Rosenbluth to NHTSA, 9/15/86.
- 7. C86-01: 1978-87 Audi 5000 Series Vehicles
 - a. NHTSA news release, "NHTSA Opens Investigation of Sudden Acceleration Incidents in Model Year 1978-1986 Audis," 8/15/86.
 - b. NHTSA to VW oA, 9/17/86.
 - c. VWoA response, 10/17/86; Supplement, 11/6/86.
 - d. NHTSA to VW oA, 11/6/86.
 - e. VWoA to NHTSA, 12/19/86.
 - f. VWoA supplement, 1/14/87.
 - g. NHTSA to VWoA, "NHTSA Announces Status of Audi Investigation," 12/23/86; News Release, 12/23/86; VWoA response, 1/14/87.
 - h. NHTSA news release, "NHTSA Request Results in Recall of Audi 5000S," 1/15/87.
 - i. NHTSA to CAS, 1/23/87; CAS response, 1/30/87.
 - j. CAS to NHTSA, 1/27/87; NHTSA memos, 1/29/87, 1/30/87, & 2/3/87.
 - k. NHTSA memos re: University of Florida graduate study, 1/27/87 & 1/29/87.
 - l. VWoA to NHTSA, 1/29/87. (see "L.7" for attachments)
 - m. NHTSA to Robert Bosch Corporation, 2/2/87; Coudert Brothers, Attorneys to Bosch, 6/12/87; Bosch response, 6/9/87.
 - n. NHTSA to New South Wales, Australia, Dept. of Consumer Affairs, 2/3/87; New South Wales response, 7/2/87.
 - o. Japan Ministry of Transport to NHTSA, 3/20/87; NHTSA response, 4/22/87.
 - p. VWoA to NHTSA, 4/30/87; NHTSA memos, 3/25/87 & 4/14/87.
 - q. NHTSA to VW oA, 6/4/87; VWoA response, 7/22/87.
 - r. NHTSA memo with 10/86 VWoA correspondence, 6/8/87.
 - s. Japan Ministry of Transport TELEX to NHTSA, 6/19/87 & 6/22/87; NHTSA response, 7/9/87.
 - t. Members of Congress to NHTSA, Support of recall, 7/28/87.
 - u. AIADA to NHTSA, Petition to close investigation, 6/10/88; NHTSA Memorandum regarding 6/20 meeting with AIADA, 6/24/88; NHTSA to AIADA, "Letter" denied, 6/24/88.
 - v. CAS to NHTSA, 9/1/88; NHTSA response, 9/22/88.
 - w. NHTSA, "Alleged Sudden Unwanted Vehicle Acceleration," Final Investigative Report, 7/89.
 - x. Congressman Hochbrueckner to VWoA & NHTSA, 3/1/88.
 - y. Index to C86-01.
- 8. DP87-002: 1981-86 Audi 4000 & GT, Volkswagen Quantum
 - a. Defect Petition, 10/27/86.
 - b. NHTSA to VW oA, 1/20/87.
 - c. VWoA response, 3/6/87. (with attachments)
 - d. VWoA response, 3/10/87. (duplicate of 3/6/87, no attachments)
 - e. VWoA supplement, 3/20/87. (with attachments)
 - f. CAS to NHTSA, 5/27/87.
 - g. NHTSA to CAS, petition inactive, 6/5/87. (See recall 87V-069)

I. RECALLS

1. List of Recalls, NHTSA, 1/19/88. (Enclosure F of NHTSA letter to Congress)
2. Recall 82V-037: 1978-82 Audi 5000, 4/14/82.
3. Recall 83V-095: 1978-83 Audi 5000, 9/14/83.

4. Recall 85V-015: 1982-84 VW Rabbit carburetor model, 2/5/85.
5. VWoA News Release, "Audi To Issue Consumer Notification" (non-safety recall), 5/29/86.
6. Audi of America, Inc., to Audi dealers, 7/28/86. (with selected attachments)
7. Recall 86V-103: 1985-6 Audi 5000S, 7/28/86.
8. Recall 87V-008: 1978-86 Audi 5000, 1/14/87.
9. Recall 87V-009: 1985-86 Audi 5000S, 1/14/87.
10. VWoA to NHTSA, Quarterly Recall Report, 4/27/87.
11. Recall 87V-069: 1985-86 Audi 4000 Coupe & VW Quantum 5-cylinder vehicles with automatic transmission, 5/15/87.
12. Recall 87V-157: 1984-8 Audi 5000 Turbo & Quattro, 9/29/87.
13. Recall 87V-170: 1984 Audi 5000S & 1984-5 5000 Turbo, 10/23/87.
14. Recall 88V-021: 1984 VW Quantum 5-Cylinder Vehicles, 2/12/88.

J. AUDI LAWSUITS

1. List of suits filed against VW oA over Audi 5000 sudden acceleration 1/87, provided as Attachment 3 to VWoA letter to NHTSA 1/14/87.
2. Deposition of Uwe Meissner, Product Analysis Manager, VWoA in Rose v. VWoA, 10/2/86.

K. AUDI LITIGATION ARTICLES

1. "3 Class Actions Filed Against Audi," Automotive News, 3/30/87.
2. "Audi 5000 Is Found Defective by Jury; Acceleration Case Precedent May Be Set," Wall Street Journal, 3/16/88.
3. "Audi Agrees to Give Owners of Its 5000 Rebates Toward Future Audi Purchases," Wall Street Journal, 6/8/88.
4. "Jury Clears Audi of Auto Defect Causing Death," Wall Street Journal, 6/15/88.
5. "Volkswagen Is Found Liable for Accident Involving Audi 5000," Wall Street Journal, 6/20/88.
6. "Audi Jury Verdict Reversed by Justice on Undue Influence," Wall Street Journal, 6/22/88.
7. "Lawsuit Against Audi Assails Rebate Pitch As Illegally Deceptive," Wall Street Journal, 6/23/88.
8. "Jury Finds Audi 500 Defective," Audi Victims Network Press Release, 7/14/88.
9. "Judge Dismisses Plan to Settle Suit Over Audi Sedan," Wall Street Journal, 8/12/88.
10. "Court Reinstates Punitive Damages in Audi 5000 Case," Wall Street Journal, 2/9/89.
11. "Audi Punitive Damages," Products Liability Advisory, 12/89.
12. "\$3.4M Audi Award," Newsday Automotive.

L. AUDI TECHNICAL MATERIALS

1. P.L. Sursi, et al., NHTSA, "Control Pedal Performance Evaluation -- Foreign Vehicles," 9/84.
2. Audi service publication: Audi 5000 current flow diagram for board computer, 4/30/85.
3. "Revenge of the Nerds, Automotive Division," Car & Driver, 5/85.
4. Wakefield, et al., "Examination of a 1985 Audi 5000 Turbo Sedan," Trident Engineering Associates, 9/6/85.
5. Audi service publication : Audi 5000S current flow diagram for automatic transmission, 10/24/85.
6. Audi service publication: Audi 5000CS turbo wiring diagram for automatic transmission, 2/24/86.
7. Technical information supplied to NHTSA by VW oA, Exhibits 1-5, 1/29/87.
8. S.M. Casey, et al., Anacapa Sciences, Inc., "Case Against Coplanar Pedals in Automobiles," pre-print of an article prepared for Human Factors Journal, 1986.
9. "Cold Acceleration Complaints, 1984-86 Audi 5000, Tech Talk (Audi publication).