

Touaregs, Cayennes called back for brake pedal issue

Keith Laing, Detroit News Washington Bureau March 28, 2016



(Photo: Josh Edelson / Getty Images)

Washington – The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has recalled about 46,000 Volkswagen Touaregs and 88,000 Porsche Cayennes that have brake pedals that can fall off.

The agency said the approximately 134,000 cars, made between the 2011 and 2016 model years, have brake pedals that may be missing a clip that is used to prevent the parts from separating.

“If the brake pedal dislodges, the driver may not be able to apply the brakes, increasing the risk of a crash,” the agency said in a recall notice that was posted on its website over the weekend.

Volkswagen, which also owns Porsche, said no injuries or crashes in the U.S. or Canada that have been attributed to the brake problem have been reported by drivers.

NHTSA said the first incident of the loose brake pedals was reported in November 2014 in testing in a foreign market. It was initially seen as an isolated incident, but the agency said a second incident, also in a foreign market, was reported in December 2015.

Volkswagen said it will notify owners of the potential brake defect. Dealers will replace the missing brake clips at no cost to owners.

The manufacturer has not yet provided a replacement schedule. Owners may contact Volkswagen customer service at (800) 893-5298.

The brake recall is the latest hiccup for Volkswagen, which has come under fire among U.S. regulators for rigging thousands of diesel-powered vehicles in recent years to circumvent federal air quality standards.

Volkswagen has admitted to selling diesel models of its cars that had software installed that activated required air pollution protections only during emissions tests, in violation of the federal Clean Air Act.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accused the German automaker last year of installing so-called “defeat devices” on about 482,000 diesel vehicles since 2008. The company has also been found to have installed the devices on cars marketed under its Audi and Porsche brands.