

Technical Service Bulletin



90 Cigarette lighter element does not eject or cigarette lighter socket INOP

90 13 41 2010353/5 September 23, 2013. Supersedes Technical Service Bulletin Group 90 number 10-14 dated August 10, 2010 for reasons listed below.

| Model(s) | Year | VIN Range | Vehicle-Specific Equipment |
|----------|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| All | 1994 - 2015 | All | Not Applicable |

Condition

| REVISION HISTORY | | |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| Revision | Date | Purpose |
| 5 | - | Revised title Revised header data (Added model years) Revised all sections with additional content and for formatting |
| 4 | 8/10/2010 | Revised header data (Added MY) Revised all sections for formatting |

Cigarette lighter element will not lock into the lighter socket -U1- to begin the heating process, or the lighter element will not automatically release once the heating process has completed. As a result, the socket can become inoperative when used as a power outlet.

Technical Background

The two conditions that are most commonly seen are:

- The two retaining tabs in the lighter socket can become pushed out too far, preventing the socket from holding the lighter element in place for the heating process.
- The two retaining tabs in the lighter socket become deformed, causing the lighter element to be stuck in the socket, which causes the fuse to blow.

These conditions can be caused when the customer uses an accessory adapter that has a wide lip and/or an aggressive edge on the adapter head (Figure 1, A).

These types of adapters can damage the cigarette lighter socket upon removal.



Figure 1. Accessory adapter head with a wide, aggressive lip (A) on the end of the adapter head.

When the customer removes the accessory adapter from the cigarette lighter socket too quickly at any angle that is not perpendicular to the console surface (Figure 2, arrow), it can cause damage to the retaining tabs inside the socket.



Figure 2. The arrow shows the proper angle to remove any accessory adapter.

The cigarette lighter socket was designed to be used with the OEM lighter element, which has a smaller adapter head relative to the lighter housing (Figure 3, B) and a rounder, less-aggressive edge (Figure 3, C).



Figure 3. OEM lighter with smaller adapter head relative to lighter housing (B) and rounded edge (C).

The power outlet was designed for use with accessory adapters with a wider range of head designs. The tabs inside the power outlet are flatter and allow for the use of adapters with wider and more aggressive adapter heads, as compared to the more rounded lighter socket tabs (Figure 4).

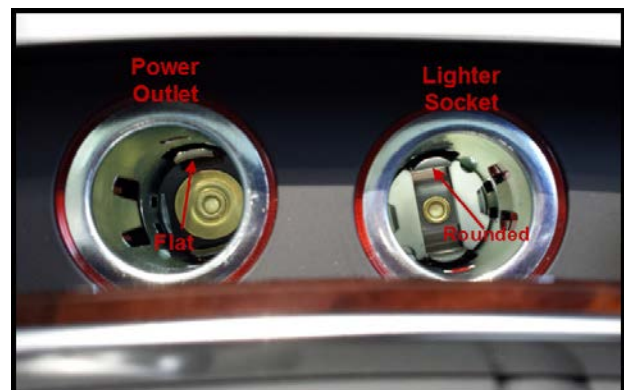


Figure 4. Power outlet (left) versus lighter socket (right).

Production Solution

Not applicable.

Service

If the lighter element does not stay secure in the lighter socket -U1- or does not automatically release, follow the repair instructions below.

1. Remove cigarette lighter fuse. Verify by testing the socket with an adapter that has a light to ensure no power is going to the socket after the fuse is removed.
2. Using a flat blade screwdriver, bend retaining tabs (Figure 5, arrow) inward or outward, depending on the failure mode. Removal of the lighter element may be required.



Figure 5. Retaining tabs (arrow). The socket shown is removed for clarity. Do not remove lighter socket from vehicle.

3. Install fuse. Install lighter element if removed.
4. Test operation several times to ensure that the lighter stays secure and will eject properly after the heating cycle completes.

5. Advise the customer to take care when removing the accessory plug from the cigarette lighter power socket. Additionally, advise the customer to seek out a different adapter with a less aggressive head style (Figure 6).



Figure 6. Power adapters with optimized head designs for use with a cigarette lighter socket.

Warranty

This damage is due to outside influence and is not covered by any Audi warranty.

Additional Information

All parts and service references provided in this TSB (2010353) are subject to change and/or removal. Always check with your Parts Department and service manuals for the latest information.