VAG brake light switch fault

The switches for the VAG Group brake lights are very delicate and much care should be taken when replacing them. In this specific case, we are going to talk about repeated incidents relating to the brake light switch and in passing, we will explain how to adjust and replace them.

The symptoms described have been confirmed in repeated incidents in the SEAT EXEO (3R), these symptoms are:

- 00526 – Brake light switch intermittent signal fault.
- ABS system warning light on.
- ESC/ESP system warning light on.
- Tyre pressure system warning light on.

The fault code 00526 will be recorded in the engine control unit on taking the corresponding code reading. Thanks to the experience of our customers, we have been able to corroborate that there is a specific range of affected chassis.

The cause of this problem is an incorrectly installed brake light switch. To rectify the fault, proceed as follows:

1. Connect a charger to the battery to ensure there are no voltage drops during the repair.
2. Plug in the connector to carry out the diagnostic and take a reading of the fault codes recorded in the engine control unit.
3. Confirm that fault code 00526 is recorded, which corresponds to the brake light switch error.
4. Check the brake light signal in the engine control unit parameters with a diagnostic tool.
5. If the signal is found to be correct, the switch will have to be adjusted, but first, the switch pusher will have to be inserted into the pedal by pressing it inwards. Then, the regulator must be rotated in an anticlockwise direction by approximately 45°, and then the adjustment can be made.
6. Release the pusher and the pedal.
7. Rotate the regulator about 45° in a clockwise direction, and fasten it in order to correctly complete the adjustment.

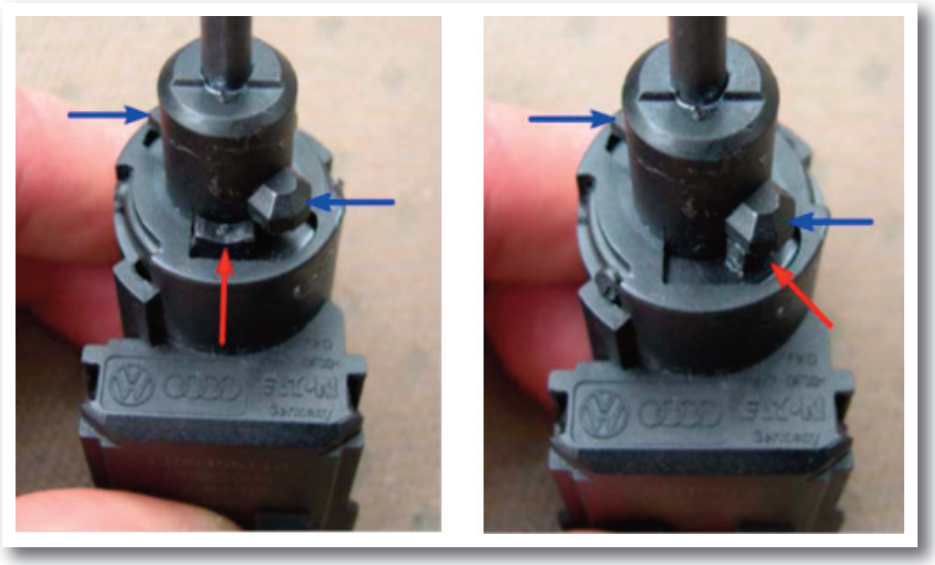

Fig. 1 Locking tabs on the brake pedal switch

8. Check if the ABS, ESC/ESP or tyre pressure warning lights are still on. If these warning lights are on, the switch will have to be replaced by a new one with part reference 1K2 945 511.

Fig. 2 The brake pedal switch installed on the pedal assembly

NOTE: Check that the switch is released before installing it. It will be about 25 mm long in the released position. To release it, press the plunger inwards and rotate the outer housing. To install the new switch, press the brake pedal to the bottom stop.

It may be necessary to start the vehicle in order to be able to lower the pedal pressure and ensure it is at the stop position.

Remember that when the switch is rotated, it is secured to its support and the position of the internal mechanism also rotates, locking the length of the plunger.

There are three tabs in the internal mechanism, and once the switch is inserted into the hole in the support and is rotated in its position, the third tab (red arrow in fig 1) remains fixed and allows the external cover to rotate.

If the switch is rotated before it is fixed in the stop and the third tab is not engaged, the internal mechanism will break. For this reason, it must be confirmed that the switch has been inserted on the stop to ensure that the plunger is compressed against its spring.

Insert the square switch at the top and rotate it approximately 45° in an anticlockwise direction.

Release the brake pedal smoothly as far as it will go. Once this process is complete, carefully rotate the switch 45° in a clockwise direction until you hear a click.

Check that the switch has been installed correctly and verify that the ABS, ESC/ESP and tyre pressure warning lights do not come on.