



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**AUG 25 2005**

[REDACTED]  
Beverly Hills, CA [REDACTED]

NVS-216 mjj  
Ref. No. 10064949

Dear Ms. [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence dated June 2005. We appreciate the time you have taken since January 2003 to correspond with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation (ODI). We understand the frustration you must have experienced after learning, unbeknownst to you, that you purchased a salvaged model year 1987 Hyundai Excel vehicle and sympathize with you concerning the subsequent mechanical problems you have encountered with the vehicle.

ODI previously responded to you on June 14, 2004, and June 13, 2005, in an attempt to inform you that the sale of salvaged vehicles does not fall under NHTSA's jurisdiction and that you should consider pursuing this issue with the California State Department of Motor Vehicles, California State Office of the Attorney General, and/or the Federal Trade Commission, which has jurisdiction over issues concerning fraud or deception, warranty and dealership problems, remuneration matters, and fair trade practices.

With respect to the mechanical problems you have encountered with your vehicle, if it can be determined through our analysis and investigation that a safety-related defect exists in motor vehicles, a manufacturer would be required to recall those motor vehicles regardless of the warranty status. In the case of salvaged vehicles, the individual or company that restores a vehicle to an operational condition becomes the manufacturer for that vehicle. However, under our statute of limitations, we cannot require a manufacturer to exercise any safety recall without charge for motor vehicles beyond 10-years of age. This 10-year limitation applies only to the manufacturer's responsibility to repair a defect free of charge as part of a safety recall campaign under the Federal statute.

Consequently, we are discontinuing our efforts to communicate the above information to you. Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a non-salvaged motor vehicle or an item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can contact our toll-free Vehicle Safety Hotline (Hotline) at 1-888-327-4236. One of our representatives may be able to assist you on matters concerning motor vehicle and motor vehicle equipment safety recalls or to report an



DOT AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE  
888-DASH-2-DOT  
888-327-4236

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alleged safety problem. You can also request safety information. If our telephones are busy, or you call during non-working hours, you can leave your name, telephone number, and a brief subject on our recording system. A Hotline representative will return your call.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Michael J. Jordan, Safety Defects Program Assistant, Correspondence Research Division, Office of Defects Investigation, at (202) 493-0576.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alberto A. Jimenez" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alberto A. Jimenez, Chief  
Correspondence Research Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement