



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE.
Washington, DC 20590

December 29, 2009

[REDACTED]

NVS-216 nlm
Ref. # 10296011

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for your correspondence dated November 25, 2009, concerning your model year (MY) 2000 Kia Sportage vehicle. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation received your correspondence on December 15, 2009.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's highways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. However, we cannot act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

We appreciate the report you provided concerning this issue. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for us. On May 9, 2006, NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation opened an investigation (EA06-007) to look into the alleged fuel tank leakage problems in certain MY 1996 through MY 2002 Kia Sportage vehicles. The investigation identified no safety-related defect trend at this time. Accordingly, this investigation was closed on November 30, 2007. The enclosed summary describes the investigation and explains why we decided to close. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that a safety-related defect does not exist. The agency will take further action if warranted by circumstances. As far as any recourse or action you can take at this time, we recommend you continue to work with your local dealership or contact Kia Motors.

Should you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or item of motor vehicle equipment in the future, you can complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at



<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/ivoq>. Also, a summary listing of vehicle owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc. can be obtained at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/problems>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Reid".

Randy Reid, Chief
Correspondence Research Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement