



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

INFORMATION Redacted PURSUANT TO THE FREEDOM OF  
INFORMATION ACT (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. 552(B)(6)

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

October 24, 2012

[REDACTED]  
Iowa City, IA [REDACTED]

NVS-216 nlm  
Ref. No. 10463213

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your correspondence concerning your model year (MY) 2006 Hyundai Sonata. Congressman David Loebsack forwarded your correspondence to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and asked that we respond directly to you.

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 motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects in their design, construction, or performance. We also monitor the adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns. In order for the agency to initiate an investigation, we look carefully at the body of consumer complaints and other available data to determine whether a defect trend may exist. However, we do not have authority to act on isolated problems or resolve disputes between individual owners, dealers, or manufacturers.

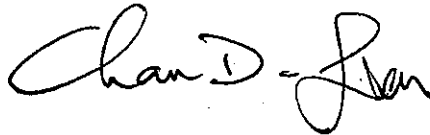
We received your prior complaint on June 26, 2012, which was entered into our complaint database for review by NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation. Based on the information you provided, the air bag and seat belt lights illuminated in your MY 2006 Hyundai Sonata despite the passenger being seated and buckled. The dealer performed diagnostic tests and reset the codes for the air bag sensor. However, this did not remedy the air bag light illumination problem and the dealer stated that the air bag sensor in the passenger seat needed to be replaced. You expressed concern that this malfunction could prevent the air bag from deploying in a crash and should be corrected under warranty.

Hyundai initiated a recall that affects all MY 2006 through MY 2008 Hyundai Sonata vehicles. NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 08V-161 (summary enclosed) addresses a problem with the front passenger air bag warning light illuminating because the occupant classification system requires reprogramming to accurately recognize small stature adults. The purpose of the occupant classification system is to detect the presence of a child restraint system or small child in the front passenger seat. In a crash the front passenger air bag deployment is suppressed to prevent injuries to a child occupying the front passenger seat.

On October 22, 2012, NHTSA contacted Billion Chevrolet Hyundai to obtain more information about the service history of your vehicle. A dealer representative advised that your vehicle was repaired on October 10, 2012. They installed a new, properly programmed occupant classification mat at no charge to you. The information you provided has been entered into our database. A brochure explaining the NHTSA investigation and recall process is enclosed for your information and you can visit our website at [www.nhtsa.gov](http://www.nhtsa.gov).

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, please contact me or Ms. Nancy L. Lewis, Associate Administrator for Enforcement, at (202) 366-3217.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chan D. Lieu". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chan D. Lieu  
Director, Governmental Affairs,  
Policy and Strategic Planning

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable David Loeb sack

### Recall Detail

23-OCT-2012

<b>Recall Num:</b> 08-V-161-000		<b>573 Date:</b> 01-APR-2008		<b>573 Date Rcvd:</b> 10-APR-2008		<b>Potentially Affected:</b> 393,308		<b>Potentially Defective:</b> 393,308	
<b>Mfr Recall Num:</b> 083		<b>Subject:</b> AIR BAG SUPPRESSION & ACTIVATION/FMVSS 208		<b>Remedy Type:</b> Inspect and Replace		<b>RP Num:</b> S71		<b>FMVSS Num:</b> 208	
<b>Recall Type:</b> Compliance		<b>Recall Effect:</b> Crash Worthines		<b>NHTSA Inv Num:</b>		<b>Influenced by:</b> MFR			
<b>Problem Exp:</b> Complaints				<b>Manufacturer:</b> HYUNDAI-KIA AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER INC		<b>Recall Status:</b> CONDUCTING RECALL			
<b>Problem Descr:</b> HYUNDAI IS RECALLING 393,308 MY 2006-2008 SONATA VEHICLES EQUIPPED WITH AN ADVANCED AIR BAG SYSTEM WHICH FEATURES AN OCCUPANT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (OCS) IN THE RIGHT FRONT SEAT. THE PURPOSE OF THE OCS IS TO DISABLE THE RIGHT PASSENGER SEAT FRONT AIR BAG WHEN IT DETECTS THE PRESENCE OF A CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEM OR SMALL CHILD IN THE RIGHT FRONT SEAT. THE RIGHT FRONT AIR BAG IS DISABLED TO PREVENT INJURIES TO A CHILD THAT MAY RESULT FROM A RIGHT FRONT AIR BAG INFLATION DURING A CRASH.									
<b>Consequence:</b> MISCLASSIFICATION OF A SMALL STATURE ADULT AS A CHILD IN THE RIGHT FRONT PASSENGER SEAT MAY CAUSE THE RIGHT FRONT AIR BAG TO NOT INFLATE IN AN ACCIDENT THAT MERITS AIR BAG DEPLOYMENT AND MAY RESULT IN INJURY TO THE RIGHT FRONT OCCUPANT.									
<b>Remedy Type:</b> DEALERS WILL VERIFY THAT THE OCS DOES NOT PROPERLY RECOGNIZE A PROPERLY SEATED ADULT OCCUPANT. AFTER VERIFICATION, DEALERS WILL REMOVE THE RIGHT FRONT SEAT CUSHION ASSEMBLY AND SHIP IT TO AN EVALUATION AND REPAIR FACILITY. THIS FACILITY WILL EVALUATE AND REPAIR OR REPROGRAM THE SEAT CUSHION AND OCS AS NECESSARY. THE RECALL IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN ON OR ABOUT MAY 26, 2008. OWNERS MAY CONTACT HYUNDAI AT 1-800-633-5151.									
<b>Notes:</b> HYUNDAI RECALL NO. 083. CUSTOMERS MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION'S VEHICLE SAFETY HOTLINE AT 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); OR GO TO HTTP://WWW.SAFERCAR.GOV.									
<b>MFR Knowl Dt:</b>		<b>Prod Change Dt:</b>		<b>Mfr Press Release Dt:</b>		<b>NHTSA Press Release Dt:</b>			
<b>Stop Sales:</b>		<b>Regional:</b>							
<b>Supplier:</b>		<b>Mfr Toll Free Num:</b> 1-800-633-5151							

Products	Vehicle Usage	Beginning Mfg Date	Ending Mfg Date
Product Type :VEHICLE Product Category :LIGHT VEHICLES Manufacturer :Hyundai Motor Company Make :HYUNDAI Model :SONATA Model Year :2007 Type :PASSENGER CAR	Passenger	01-MAR-2005	11-JAN-2008
Product Type :VEHICLE Product Category :LIGHT VEHICLES Manufacturer :Hyundai Motor Company Make :HYUNDAI Model :SONATA Model Year :2006 Type :PASSENGER CAR	Passenger	01-MAR-2005	11-JAN-2008
Product Type :VEHICLE Product Category :LIGHT VEHICLES Manufacturer :Hyundai Motor Company Make :HYUNDAI Model :SONATA Model Year :2008 Type :PASSENGER CAR	Passenger	01-MAR-2005	11-JAN-2008

**Component Name**

AIR BAGS

**Influencing Investigation(s)**

Investigation Num	Subject	Investigator	Relationship

### Recall Detail

23-OCT-2012

**Related Recalls**

Yr	Type	Major Sub	Relationship
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**Recall Characteristics**

**Unique Recall**

573 modified

**Unique Descr**

AMENDED REPORT - REVISED POPULATION (FROM 393,714 TO 393,308),  
OWNER NOTIFICATION PHASED - 6-6-2008

**Recall Communications**

**Fax Ack:** 10-APR-2008

**Letter Ack:** 11-APR-2008

**Draft 577 Received:** 10-APR-2008

**Draft 577 Approved:**

**Final 577 Received:** 19-JUN-2008

**Owner Notification:** 02-JUN-2008

**Phased:** Y

**577 End:**

**Renotification:**

**Envelope Approved:**

**Dealer Notification**

**Received:** 19-JUN-2008

**Dealer Notification:** 30-MAY-2008