

NHTSA ID: 11256527

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

[REDACTED]  
Tiger, GA [REDACTED]

July 25, 2020

NHTSA  
Office of Defects Investigation Team (NVS-210)  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
West Building  
Washington DC, 20590

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing today to request information and/or updates with regard to two important investigations, both of which I believe are related to a vehicle defect that creates a real and present danger to the public. Specifically, I am interested in PE19004 (Non-crash Vehicle Fires) and RQ17003 (Scope and Timeliness). I believe these two investigations that have been open for over a year may shine a light on the Kia/Hyundai Theta II MPI Engine defect and failure or fires that so many consumers are experiencing. I believe the investigations are key to finding out why these engines are failing (i.e., rod failure) and help identify vehicles that need to be recalled. Given the Theta II MPI engines span various models of Kia and Hyundai vehicles, many consumers are likely affected. As you may be aware, Kia and Hyundai have recalled many Theta II GDI engines, but have not recalled the similar Theta II MPI engines that are also experiencing a pattern of engine failures and some fires. I have detailed in my own NHTSA complaint (11256527) the dire situation that so many other consumers are experiencing. I have tried to work with the manufacturer, Kia, for approximately 10 months now, on resolving this matter (Kia Case [REDACTED]). However, Kia is not taking full responsibility in this matter, they are not admitting fault, nor are they acknowledging a pattern of Theta II MPI engine failure exists. I have asked Kia how many NHTSA investigations my vehicle is included in and how many other Theta II MPI engine complaints they have received, and they do not provide that information. Kia points to the fact that there is no open campaign or recall on my vehicle, which is what they are telling many other consumers documented by their NHTSA complaints. I have alerted Kia about this critical safety issue (as complaints are filed with NHTSA on a regular basis, often times weekly), asked them to notify Kia leadership, and asked what they are doing to be proactive in alerting the public of this safety issue. However, they will not provide any information on how they are addressing the safety concerns and they are unwilling to do a voluntary recall. Through my own analysis of NHTSA complaints (see included reports), I have outlined a high percentage of engines seizing, failing, and or needing a full replacement. By my analysis, out of 316 engine complaints that include KT\_A1 in the VIN (similar to mine and one I believe to include the Theta II MPI engine), approximately 57% complaints detail engines seizing, locking, or in need of a replacement. Approximately 18% are vehicles that are stalling (these may be in need of engine replacement) and 11% are vehicles that are experiencing acceleration or deceleration issues. With this failure rate, consumers are left wondering why there is not a campaign to have these vehicles recalled to prevent future financial harm, bodily injury, or even death. I can't verify the KT\_A1 VIN is MPI-only engine, as only the manufacturer or NHTSA would have the complete VIN and engine type. However, I believe a strong pattern exists that shows KT\_A1 includes a MPI engine that is not covered by open campaign or recall. I also believe a pattern exists for the Kia Sorentos that have VIN KU\_A6 and KW\_A2, which may include engines that have MPI engines failing that are not covered by an open campaign or recall.

Please review my analysis of the KT\_A1 complaints (which I believe is correct and is only a small fraction of the affected Theta II MPI engines that are failing) and please provide any information regarding the status of PE19004 and RQ17003 investigations. If you could also update my NHTSA Complaint (11256527) to state that my engine failure is not covered under the existing recall, I would appreciate it.

I appreciate your time. My hope is citizens and consumers like myself can find relief. Above all, I hope our work will help ensure the safety of our fellow citizens. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to NHTSA in the future.

Best Regards,

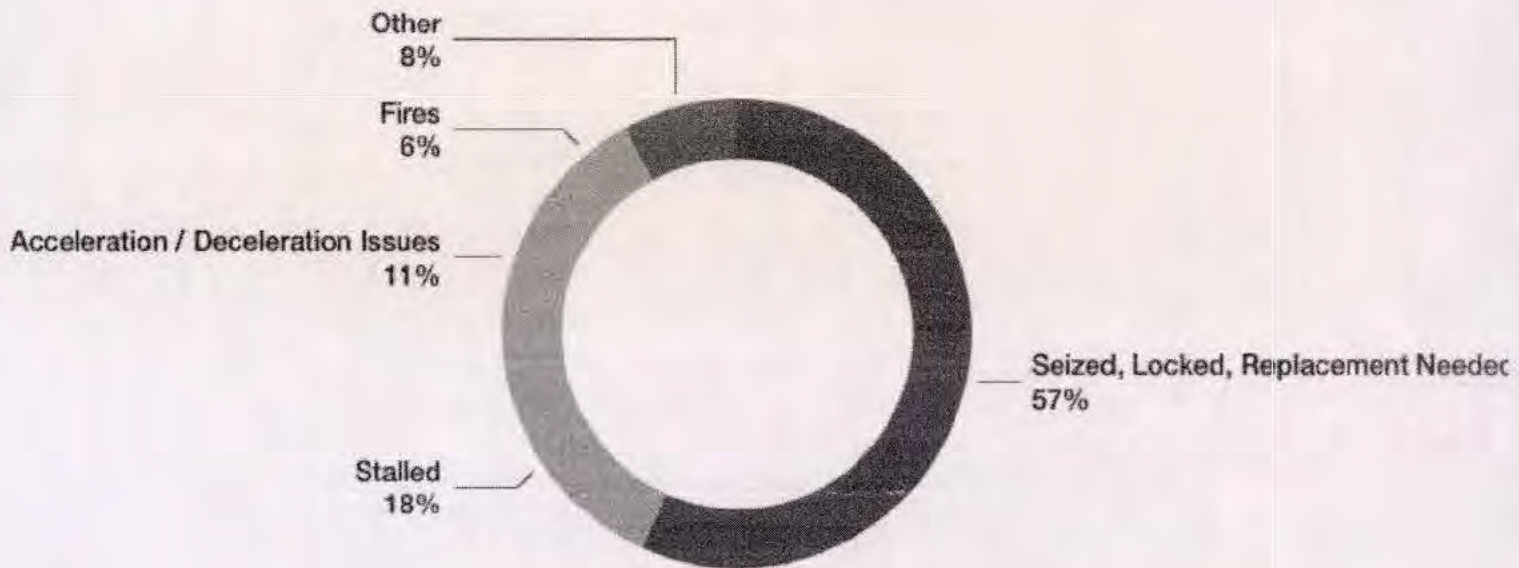
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Analysis of 2011-2013 Kia Sorento NHTSA complaints with KT\_A1 in VIN (I.e., 5XYKT3A15BG)

316 engine related complaints were reviewed

- 56.64% (179) are engines that seized, locked, and/or need full replacement
  - Out of these 179 complaints, 15.08% (27) mentioned rod failure
- 17.72% (56) are vehicles that have had engines stall
- 11.39% (36) are vehicles that have experienced engine acceleration or deceleration issues
- 6.32% (20) are vehicles that have had their engine catch fire
  - Out of these 20 complaints, 25% (5) mentioned rod failures
- 7.9% (25) are vehicles that have some other type of engine issue
  - Out of these 25 complaints, 8% (2) mentioned rod failure



**Kia Sorento (KT\_A1) - Engines Seized, Locked, and/or Replacement Needed (CMPLID)**

1139537	1656119	1570019	1584773
1439325	1373912	1315831	1648189
1451411	1380008	1503512	1658112
1482404	1381605	1500361	1486014
1504546	1384968	1290142	1521834
1508829	1388964	1377056	1372502
1546050	1410180	1384549	1442111
1655600	1454441	1390914	1564226
1661575	1473424	1391766	1447527
1658154	1482724	1408321	1542025
1507775	1495027	1417098	1564227
1542326	1502382	1441672	1542027
1479533	1511495	1452968	1491903
1365009	1521835	1461316	1482287
1456000	1535861	1491904	1531161
1469073	1536273	1497413	1671927
1515006	1584138	1498998	1650826
1538915	1590484	1504268	1648925
1559177	1599147	1544687	1605000
1564228	1383305	1570098	1595331
1610433	1390286	1577109	1576748
833167	1392963	1583253	1564851
1465699	1396695	1584772	1560847
1583594	1408706	1598172	1497448
1668699	1447280	1602815	1445619
1465697	1465150	1607381	1432326
1583595	1476967	1614393	1355646
1384570	1480727	1633858	1572072
1387777	1492048	1643897	1538136
1416311	1499504	1663370	1527884
1436588	1507221	1666070	1517180
1465698	1542294	1406641	1602212
1481301	1542389	1370254	
1489398	1588345	1575053	
1539557	1601339	1587318	
1556101	1631591	1675662	
1570035	1646007	1429162	
1574008	1646216	1564437	
1576131	1655348	1300810	
1583596	1656119	1458182	
1592384	1660391	1498661	
1610005	1669933	1548756	
1611721	1658111	1411383	
1617931	1480354	1418991	
1668701	1619412	1430979	
1628816	1642302	1445103	
1530090	1390616	1486015	
1326481	1455346	1458564	
1360271	1460103	1570018	
	1468163		

**Kia Sorento (KT\_A1) - Engines Stalled (CMPLID)**

1118496				
1150179				
1159714				
1191434				
1457604				
1480742				
1496905				
1497200				
1530144				
1539719				
1556214				
1574405				
1575965				
1602769				
1604330				
1658098				
894590				
1008076				
1401306				
1632434	1578627			
1177542	1575966			
1303035	1442111			
1388930	1010653			
1392571	1159713			
1498731	1292109			
1570300	1496903			
1578625	901932			
1589164	1578626			
1544136				
970237				
1010652				
1099400				
1315475				
1392602				
1480331				
1544135				
1614707				
1469351				
1291648				
1562226				
1575967				
1099399				
859823				
901933				
1118497				
1496904				
1559507				

**Kia Sorento (KT\_A1) - Engines Acceleration / Deceleration Issue (CMPLID)**

1008084				
1292110				
1345491				
1403439				
1455524				
1472983				
1506162				
1537135				
1587178				
1597109				
883911				
897383				
899053				
919385				
816848				
1615952				
1504461				
1531890				
1560813				
960714				
1544134				
1632435				
839561				
862957				
901691				
934940				
1492406				
1499553				
1506161				
1632433				
840255				
871568				
1499554				
1506160				
1099401				
1586722				

**Kia Sorento (KT\_A1) - Engine Fires (CMPLID)**

1484880				
1502363				
1533325				
856417				
1269693				
1482411				
1497243				
1530113				
1392411				
1395078				
1536103				
1560855				
1560865				
1400834				
1166302				
1166303				
1379965				
1447526				
1379966				
1567942				

**Kia Sorento (KT\_A1) - Engine Other (CMPLID)**

941829				
1030716				
1104704				
1114681				
1230048				
1277108				
1474353				
1542026				
1626615				
913016				
1501847				
1258141				
1392032				
1112234				
1468320				
1495002				
1578877				
1598689				
1612292				
1523161				
1523163				
1277107				
1519056				
1472982				

Tiger GA

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