



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



February 25, 2022

York, PA

NEF-109 ela
Ref. No. 11449232

Dear [REDACTED]:

Thank you for the letter about your model year (MY) 2020 Hyundai Kona vehicle. Your letter was forwarded to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) Office of Defects Investigation. I am pleased to respond.

NHTSA is the Federal agency responsible for improving safety on our Nation's roadways. We are authorized to order manufacturers to recall and repair vehicles or motor vehicle equipment when our investigations indicate that they contain safety defects, such as in their design, construction, or performance. Among other activities, we also monitor the completion rates and adequacy of manufacturers' recall campaigns.

We appreciate the report you provided. Reports from motorists are a very important source of information for NHTSA. We are aware of NHTSA Safety Recall Campaign No. 21V-301, that addresses a problem with the engine, which may have been assembled with excessively hardened piston rings that can chip and cause damage to the engine in certain MY 2019 through 2021 Hyundai Kona vehicles. The remedy for this recall is to inspect the engine for evidence of piston ring damage and replace damaged engines. As an added level of protection, the remedy for Recall 21V-301 also includes an enhanced engine control software update containing a new Piston Noise Sensing System ("PNSS") program to continuously monitor engine vibrations for unusual patterns potentially indicating an abnormal condition with the engine which could lead to an engine failure. The PNSS is currently under development and will be applied when available.

Please note that recalls are very specific with regard to vehicle build dates, affected vehicle identification numbers (VIN), remedy procedures, and defective components. We know that under Recall 21V-301, not all of the affected vehicles had indicators of damage to the engine that would require an engine replacement. We encourage you to continue to work with Hyundai and your dealer to follow up on the availability of the PNSS update for your vehicle. We entered your information into NHTSA's database, where it will be used with other reports to identify any safety defect trends that may require our attention. You can learn more about NHTSA's investigation and recall process on our website at www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/documents/mvdefectsandrecalls_808795.pdf.

If you encounter a safety-related problem with a motor vehicle or motor vehicle equipment in the future, please complete an electronic Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire online at www.nhtsa.gov or call the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236. Also, you may review owners' complaints, safety recalls, manufacturers' service bulletins, etc., on our website.

Sincerely,

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

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