



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

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: RQ 03-006  
Prompted By: IE03-032, EA99-034, RECALL 00V-175  
Date Opened: 08/15/2003  
Principal Investigator: BRUCE YORK-B  
Subject: REFUELING SPIT BACK

Manufacturer: KIA MOTORS AMERICA, INC.  
Products: 1998 - 2001 KIA SEPHIA  
Population: 253000

**Problem Description: DURING REFUELING, GASOLINE ALLEGEDLY MAY SPIT BACK OUT OF THE FUEL FILLER PIPE ONTO THE CONSUMER.**

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	12	0	12
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
# Injuries:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	0	0

\*Description Of Other:

Action: A RECALL QUERY HAS BEEN OPENED.

Engineer: Bruce York

Date: 08/15/2003

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt *6EM 08/15/03*

Date: 08/15/2003

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 08/15/2003

**Summary:** IN JUNE 2000, KIA NOTIFIED ODI OF A DEFECT CONDITION IN APPROXIMATELY 100,000 MY 1998-99 SEPHIA PASSENGER VEHICLES MANUFACTURED FROM OCTOBER 17, 1997 TO MAY 16, 1999, THAT COULD RESULT IN FUEL SPIT BACK WHILE REFUELING (EA99-034, RECALL 00V-175). ACCORDING TO KIA, MANUFACTURING CHANGES MADE TO THE ONBOARD REFUELING VAPOR RECOVERY (ORVR) VALVE COULD CAUSE FUEL SHUT OFF BEFORE THE TANK REACHED 95% OF NOMINAL CAPACITY DURING REFUELING. KIA STATED THAT IF THE CONSUMER THEN ATTEMPTED TO ADD MORE FUEL TO THE TANK, FUEL SPILLBACK OR SPITBACK FROM THE FUEL FILLER NECK COULD OCCUR. KIA REPLACED THE ORVR VALVES IN THE RECALLED VEHICLES. ODI HAS RECEIVED 7 COMPLAINTS OF FUEL SPIT BACK ON VEHICLES THAT HAVE RECEIVED THE RECALL REPAIRS AND 5 COMPLAINTS ON VEHICLES THAT WERE NOT COVERED BY THE RECALL. A RECALL QUERY HAS BEEN OPENED TO ASSESS THE ADEQUACY OF THE REMEDY AND SCOPE OF RECALL 00V-175.

*6EM 8/15/03*