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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-004
Prompted By: RQ03-006
Date Opened: 02/03/2004
Principal Investigator: Bruce York-B
Subject: Refueling Spit Back

Manufacturer: KIA Motors America, Inc.
Products: 1998 - 2001 KIA Sephia And 2000 - 2001 KIA Spectra
Population: 278266

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:	21	10	31
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	191	191

*Description Of Other: Warranty claims involving fuel spit back

Action: An engineering analysis has been opened.

Engineer: *Bruce York* BBY 2/4/04 Date: *02/03/2004*
Div. Chief: *Jeffrey L. Quandt* Date: *02/03/2004*
Office Dir.: *Kathleen C. DeMeter* Date: *02/03/2004*

Summary: In June 2000, KIA notified ODI of a defect condition in approximately 100,000 my 1998-99 Sephia 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 capacity. KIA stated that if the consumer then attempted to add more fuel to the tank, fuel spitback from the fuel filler neck could occur. KIA replaced the ORVR valves in the recalled vehicles. ODI has received 16 complaints of fuel spit back on post recalled vehicles and 5 complaints on non recalled vehicles. KIA has identified 2 fuel spit back complaints on post recalled vehicles and 8 complaints on non recalled vehicles. KIA provided warranty information showing 191 claims potentially related to fuel spitback on non-recalled vehicles. KIA has also informed ODI that the Spectra has an identical fuel tank, engine, and ORVR system as the Sephia. ODI will expand the scope to include these spectra vehicles. ODI has upgraded its investigation to an engineering analysis to further assess the scope, frequency, and trend of the fuel spitback risk associated with the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.

VRJ 2/4/04