



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: EA 04-007

Prompted By: RQ03-007

Date Opened: 02/27/2004

Principal Investigator: L. Strickland

Subject: Seat Belt Buckle Malfunction

Manufacturer: Kia Motors America, Inc.

Products: 1999-2000 Kia Sephia and Sportage, 2000 Kia Spectra

Population: 262,636

Problem Description: Alleged False Latch or Malfunction of Seat Belt Buckle Assembly

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	8	75	83
Crashes/Fires:	0	35	35
Injury Incidents:	0	30	30
# Injuries:	0	36	36
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	1495	1495

*Description Of Other: Warranty Claims

Action: Open an Engineering Analysis

Engineer: Leamon H. Strickland *LS*

Date: 02/27/2004

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 02/27/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 02/27/2004

Summary:

Information received and analyzed under RQ03-007 disclosed that M.Y. 1999 and 2000 Kia Sephia and Sportage vehicles were equipped with modified versions of the same safety belt latch assembly as those recalled in Campaign No. 02V-216. These latch assemblies were identified as Type A97. ODI analysis indicates a continuing trend of consumer complaints following a series of design modifications made by Kia to improve the latch assembly.

This EA has been opened to further investigate this issue.

3/1/04