



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE04-030
Prompted By: IE04-014, Consumer Complaints
Date Opened: 03/24/2004
Principal Investigator: Kyle Bowker
Subject: Steel Wheel Fracture

Manufacturer: Kia Motors America, Inc.
Products: 2001 Kia Rio
Population: 57,340

Problem Description: Standard equipped 13x5J steel wheels fracture in a circumferential pattern on the wheel disc at or around the wheel hat area.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	7		
Crashes/Fires:	0		
Injury Incidents:	0		
# Injuries:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
# Fatalities:	0		
Other*:	0		

*Description Of Other:

Action: A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Kyle M. Bowker KMB

Date: 03/24/2004

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 03/24/2004

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 03/24/2004

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 7 reports that allege wheel fractures on the subject vehicles. Several complainants report multiple incidents of wheel fracture allegedly affecting 17 wheels in total. The complainants allege that the standard equipped 13x5J steel wheels fracture in a circumferential pattern on the wheel disc at or around the wheel hat area. One wheel examined by ODI displayed crack propagation 270 degrees around the wheel disc. The fracture penetrated completely through the wheel and measures 2mm at its widest point. A decorative full wheel cover shrouds the subject wheels from view. Complainants most often report hearing a noise while driving and identify the wheel fractures upon further inspection.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope and safety consequences of the alleged defect.

KMB
3-25-2004

PE04-030
Steel Wheel Fracture
2001 Kia Rio

Subject Vehicle Owner Questionnaire List

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	ODI ID	MAKE	MODEL	MODEL_YR	VIN	RECVD_DT
1	8006477	Kia	Rio	2001	KNADC12361	27-Mar-02
2	8023149	Kia	Rio	2001	KNADC12351	21-Nov-02
3	10016804	Kia	Rio	2001	KNADC12341	28-Apr-03
4	10021287	Kia	Rio	2001		08-Jun-03
5	10040164	Kia	Rio	2001	KNADC12361	17-Sep-03
6	10053443	Kia	Rio	2001	KNADC12301	06-Jan-04
7	10058398	Kia	Rio	2001	KNADC12341	18-Feb-04

Last Updated March 24, 2004