



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Memorandum

Subject: **TEST REQUEST: MY 2004 Hyundai Elantra (PE04-041)**
Sent via fax transmission

Date: **MAY 26 2004**

From: Kathleen C. DeMeter, Director
Office of Defects Investigation

Reply to
Attn. of: **NVS-213cat
PE04-041**

To: Michael Monk, Director
Vehicle Research and Test Center (VRTC)

This memorandum requests the VRTC to conduct testing as described below.

BACKGROUND:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is currently investigating the potential for post-crash fuel tank leaks in MY 2004 Hyundai Elantra vehicles (PE04-041). This investigation was prompted by a fuel tank leakage incident in MY 2004 Hyundai Elantra in a 40-mph frontal offset crash test by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS). During follow-up inspections it was determined that the vapor tube hose clamp ears had punctured the fuel tank.

On April 30, 2004, Hyundai Motor Company submitted a 573 Defect Information Report to NHTSA concerning a recall of MY 2004 Hyundai Elantra vehicles produced from September 1, 2003 through April 14, 2004, to correct a problem with vapor tube hose clamp orientation, which could allow the clamp ears to face the fuel tank, and possibly puncture the tank during a crash. The subject vehicles are believed to share common body styles, fuel tanks, vapor tube assemblies, and hose clamps, with MY 2001-2004 Elantra vehicles built prior to September 1, 2003. Hyundai has stated that, prior to September 1, 2003, adequate manufacturing controls were in place to ensure proper orientation of the hose clamp. ODI would like to inspect some of the earlier production vehicles to verify this.

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this testing is to obtain at least five MY 2001-2004 Hyundai Elantra vehicles built prior to September 1, 2003, to determine the orientation of the vapor tube hose clamp ears relative to the fuel tank.

RECOMMENDED APPROACH:

1. Develop a test survey vehicle matrix and procedure in conjunction with ODI to complete the objective above.



2. Inspect the fuel tank assemblies on MY 2001-2004 Hyundai Elantra vehicles to determine the orientation of the vapor tube hose clamp ears relative to the fuel tank.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The project engineer is Cheryl Tuosto (202-366-1869) who will discuss the details of the testing with your engineers. We would like to have VRTC's proposal of the procedure prior to test startup.

FINAL REPORT:

It is requested that the test work and draft report be completed as scheduling allows in coordination with ODI.

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