



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE06-002
Date Opened: 01/04/2006
Principal Investigator: Kyle Bowker
Subject: Fuel Tank Leakage

Manufacturer: Kia Motors America, Inc.
Products: 1999-2000 Kia Sportage
Population: 105,103 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The steel fuel storage tank allegedly leaks.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	8		
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: 01/04/2006

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 01/04/2006

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 01/04/2006

Summary: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received eight (8) complaints on the subject vehicles that allege fuel leakage from the steel fuel storage tank. Four (4) complainants report they could smell gasoline odors due to the alleged fuel leak. Seven (7) complainants allege that upon inspection the fuel leak was clearly visible to the naked eye, including one report that the fuel leak was significant enough to allow puddles of fuel to develop underneath the vehicle when parked. Most complainants allege the fuel leak was due to corrosion at the fuel sending unit interface, the fuel filler inlet, and/or along the bottom and sides of the tank where a protective shield may make contact with the tank or trap debris and moisture in close proximity to the tank. The complaint trend is recent with five (5) complaints received within the past 6 months.

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

KMB
1-4-06