



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 08-071

Date Opened: 12/15/2008

Date Closed: 05/29/2009

Principal Investigator: Lee Strickland

Subject: Interior Door Handle Laceration Hazard

Manufacturer: Hyundai Motor Company

Products: 2002-2003 Hyundai Sonata

Population: 154,401

Problem Description: Peeling or separation of chrome plating on interior door handle may expose sharp edges and pose a laceration hazard.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5	276	281
Crashes/Fires:	0	0	0
Injury Incidents:	8	143	151
# Injuries:	8	143	151
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	23,463	23,463

\*Description of Other: Warranty claims filed by dealers.

Action: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed. Recall No. 09V-171.

Investigator: Lee Strickland *LS*

Date: 05/29/2009

Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper

Date: 05/29/2009

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 05/29/2009

### Summary:

The manufacturer has issued a safety recall notification (09V-171) as a result of this investigation. The recall affects 91,202 MY 2002-2003 subject vehicles produced from January 28, 2002, through March 22, 2003.

The vehicle recall population was defined by the manufacturer's use of a new supplier for the chrome plating process beginning in January 2002, and a production change in March 2003 to improve adhesion of the plating to the door handle. Vehicles being recalled represent 59 percent of the total MY 2002-2003 production, but account for 91 percent of the consumer complaints received. The process change for MY 2002 vehicles resulted in a dramatic increase in complaints (1200 percent on a per unit rate basis). MY 2003 vehicles built after March 2003 production change showed a similar decline in the complaint rate.

Based on the manufacturer's action, this investigation has been closed.