



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

## ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE08-033

Date Opened: 4/28/2008

Date Closed:

Principal Investigator: Chris Lash

Subject: Steering Binding

Manufacturer: Kia Motors America, Inc.

Products: 2002-2004 Kia Sedona

Population: 79,000 (estimated)

Problem Description: The driver may experience hard steering, steering binding or noise while steering due to binding of the lower steering column universal joint.

### FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	5		
Crashes/Fires:	1		
Injury Incidents:	0		
Fatality Incidents:	0		
Other*:	0		

\*Description of Other:

Action: an Preliminary Evaluation has been opened.

Engineer: Chris Lash *ml*

Date: 04/28/2008

Div. Chief: Jeffrey L. Quandt

Date: 04/28/2008

Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 04/28/2008

Summary: ODI has received five owner complaints alleging incidents of steering intermediate shaft universal joint binding or lock-up during turns. One complainant (ODI#10223568) alleged that the binding resulted in a crash at low speed (10 mph). Another complaint (ODI#10223110) alleged that a momentary lock-up of the steering caused the vehicle to drift into the oncoming lane of traffic. ODI also identified field reports related to steering binding in Early Warning Data submitted by Kia.

A Preliminary Evaluation has been opened to assess the scope, frequency and safety consequences of the alleged defect in the subject vehicles.