



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

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE09-034
Date Opened: 07/17/2009
Principal Investigator: Peter Ong
Subject: Air bag OCS
Date Closed: 11/30/2009

Manufacturer: Hyundai – Kia America Technical Center, Inc.
Products: 2007 – 2008 Kia Sorento vehicles
Population: 75,784

Problem Description: The passenger air bag off light illuminates, disabling bag for adult sized occupants.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	40	907	947
Crashes/Fires:	0	1	1
Injury Incidents:	0	1	1
# Injuries:	0	1	1
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
# Fatalities:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	1,107	1,107

*Description of Other: 1,107 Non-duplicating warranty claims were related to this issue.

Action: Upgrade this Preliminary Evaluation.

Engineer: Peter Ong *PO*
Div. Chief: D. Scott Yon
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 11/30/2009
Date: 11/30/2009
Date: 11/30/2009

Summary: Kia reports that for vehicles built prior to the software update of 11/27/2007, the vehicles can improperly classify an adult as a child restraint seat and thus illuminate the "airbag off" warning light and suppress the frontal passenger airbag. On May 12, 2009, KIA launched a Technical Service Bulletin (SB076) campaign to "re-flash" all vehicles built prior to the 11/27/2007 production date. Kia also believes that intermittent occupant movement and out of position seating contributed to the high number of complaints. Nine hundred and five of the nine hundred and forty seven complaints and 1,014 of the 1,107 warranty claims were associated with the 57,228 vehicles built prior to the 11/27/2007 production date. There was one frontal passenger airbag non-deployment crash that resulted in one minor injury of a belted adult passenger occupant.

This Preliminary Evaluation is being upgraded to an Engineering Analysis (EA09-017) to further assess this issue for all MY2007-2008 Sorento vehicles built prior to the 11/27/2007 production date.