



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 Failures

Manufacturer: Hyundai – Kia America Technical Center, Inc.
Products: 2007 – 2008 Kia Sorento vehicles
Population: 64,000 (estimated)

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

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	35		35
Crashes/Fires:	0		0
Injury Incidents:	0		0
# Injuries:	0		0
Fatality Incidents:	0		0
# Fatalities:	0		0
Other*:	0		0

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation.

Engineer: Peter Ong *peo*
Div. Chief: Thomas Z. Cooper
Office Dir.: Kathleen C. DeMeter

Date: 07/27/2009
Date: 07/27/2009
Date: 07/27/2009

*review
7/21/09
Jag*

Summary: ODI has received 35 complaints on the subject vehicles that state the passenger "air bag off" light is illuminated. This signals that the passenger air bag is deactivated.

The Occupant Classification System (OCS) is designed to deactivate the frontal air bag for child passengers under 60 pounds and activate the air bag for adult sized passengers over 108 lbs. Interviews with complainants have confirmed that the OCS does not always identify passenger occupants weighing over 108 pounds.

Mis-classification of a small stature adult as a child in the right front passenger seat may cause the right front air bag to not operate/inflate in a frontal crash and may increase the risk for injury.