



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 10-046
Date Opened: 11/22/2010
Investigator: Michael Lee
Approver: Frank Borris
Subject: Transmission Shift Cable Detachment
Date Closed: 04/05/2011
Reviewer: Scott Yon

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: KIA MOTORS CORPORATION
Products: 2006-2008 Kia Optima (produced from 9/29/05 to 6/13/07)
Population: 70,115
Problem Description: The automatic transmission shift cable may detach from the gear shifter assembly preventing the transmission from being shifted into the Park position potentially resulting in a vehicle roll away.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	4	132	136
Crashes/Fires:	0	4	4
Injury Incidents:	0	0	0
Fatality Incidents:	0	0	0
Other*:	0	2,026	2,026

*Description of Other: Warranty claims

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Close this Preliminary Evaluation (NHTSA Recall No. 11V-153).

Summary:

During manufacture the automatic transmission shift cables in certain subject vehicles were installed incorrectly causing extra tension on the cable. This condition can cause the shift cable to detach from the gear shifter assembly's dowel pin preventing the transmission from being shifted. The shift lever can be moved into the Park (P) position while the vehicle transmission is still in the last used gear before detachment. If this were to occur, and if the driver leaves the vehicle without engaging the parking brake, the vehicle may inadvertently roll away thus creating the risk of a crash.

Kia is conducting a safety recall (11V-153) to correct the subject problem in approximately 70,115 model year (MY) 2006 through 2008 Kia Optima vehicles produced from 9/29/2005 to 6/13/2007. Kia has stated that the early MY 2006 Optima vehicles built before 9/29/2005 had different automatic transmission shift cables and shift levers than the subsequent MY 2006 through early MY 2008 Optima vehicles built up to 6/13/2007. Beginning 6/14/2007, Kia changed the assembly process for the shift cables to ensure correct installation. As for the recall remedy, Kia dealers will inspect the shift cables for correct installation, and re-install them, if necessary.

For more details on the recall, see NHTSA recall 11V-153. This investigation is closed.