

Johnson, Valencia (NHTSA)

From: Yon, Scott (NHTSA)
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 3:52 PM
To: 'Babcock, Robert'
Cc: Strickland, Leamon (NHTSA); Johnson, Valencia (NHTSA)
Subject: RE: Request for Extension PE10-023

Bob,

My apologies for the slow response. Kia is requesting an extension of four weeks. ODI typically only grants two week extensions, especially in the PE phase where we are limited to a 120 day period in which to complete our analysis. However given your statements below (explaining the level of effort required), and given that this only effects two responses, ODI will grant a three week extension making the new due date for Request 9 and 11 September 17, 2010. This is the best we can do, I hope you understand. Please let me know if you have questions or need to discuss further.

Scott

Valencia, please put this email in the investigative file for PE10-023 as a record of this request.

From: Babcock, Robert [mailto:rbabcock@hatci.com]
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 3:58 PM
To: Yon, Scott (NHTSA)
Cc: Strickland, Leamon (NHTSA)
Subject: Request for Extension PE10-023

Scott,

Kia is working on a response to your letter of July 14, 2010 (PE10-023) regarding allegations of fuel expulsion and/or fuel restriction during refueling in the 2003 Kia Sorento (NVS-212lhs/PE10-023). Kia will respond to the categories 1-8, 9 (first part) and 10 on the date requested with all information available at that time.

However, Kia would like to request an extension of time from August 27, 2010 to September 24, 2010 in which to provide its response to the second part of Request No. 9 and Request No. 11.

Previously, Yvonne Dalton of Lee, Hong, Degerman, Kang & Waimey discussed this matter with Lee Strickland on August 10, 2010. At that time, Ms. Dalton noted that Kia would like to request additional time to respond to the second part of Request No. 9 which asks Kia to 1) identify all other Kia vehicles equipped with the identical subject components as the 2003 Kia Sorento and 2) provide separate counts of the numbers of consumer complaints, field reports and warranty claims for those vehicles. The definition of "subject component" includes all fuel-related components.

Kia has determined that many of the fuel system components in the 2003 Kia Sorento were used in other Kia models and model years. Since it is not yet known to Kia which fuel system components might be related to your inquiries, it would be extremely burdensome and time consuming, and not actually helpful, to gather the information for these other models without first knowing which components need to be analyzed. Thus, Kia would like to identify the applicable components as part of its response to Request No. 11 and provide the "other vehicle" information for those components in response to the second part of No. 9.

As to No. 11, Kia has not yet identified any previous evaluations or investigations of difficulties in refueling for the 2003 Sorento and thus has not identified any component or vendor in which to focus the inquiry. Further, Kia will need to understand the various field documents and review the vehicle fuel system design in light of those documents, as well as any design changes, if any, in order to identify the relevant vendors which must be consulted. Finally, it will be necessary to evaluate any component(s) that will be identified in the evaluation and investigation process. Thus, Kia is requesting additional time to perform and complete these steps in the evaluation and investigation process.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require any additional information. Please feel free to contact me directly by phone or email regarding this matter at any time. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Best regards,
Bob



Robert Babcock
Senior Manager, Regulation and Certification Department

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