



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Memorandum

Subject:	Test Request: Analysis of Shattering Of Panoramic Sunroof Glass	Date:	February 12, 2016
From:	Otto Matheke, Acting Director Office of Defects Investigation	Reply to:	NEF-120mjl
		Attn of:	EA14-002
To:	Tim Johnson, Director Vehicle Research and Test Center		

This memorandum requests the Vehicle Research and Test Center (VRTC) to conduct the testing as described below.

BACKGROUND: The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) is conducting an Engineering Analysis (EA14-002) concerning the spontaneous shattering of the panoramic sunroof glass in certain model year 2011-2014 Kia Sorento vehicles (subject vehicles). Some of the Sorento drivers who experienced the glass breakage reported being very startled by the loud sound associated with the glass breakage and being visually impaired and/or injured by falling glass fragments. When the sunroof's sun shade is closed, most or all of the glass fragments appear to get trapped in the sun shade.

OBJECTIVES: The primary objectives of this test program are to evaluate:

1. Any injury potential from a component of the sunroof assembly (in addition to the falling glass fragments) in a subject vehicle, for example, some drivers reported a metal bar dropping down as a result of the sunroof glass breakage; and
2. Whether the sunroof glass fragments from a subject vehicle meet SAE and/or ANSI standard on tempered glass fragments.

TEST VEHICLE: VRTC shall obtain a model year 2011, 2012 or 2013 Kia Sorento. The test vehicle should be in good condition and not have any history of prior accidents or damage.

TEST PROCEDURE/METHODOLOGY: VRTC shall prepare the test procedures and methodology necessary to meet the objectives of this test program.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: The project engineer at ODI is Michael Lee who will discuss the details of the testing with your engineers. He can be reached at (202) 366-5236 or michael.lee@dot.gov.

SCHEDULE: We would like to have the testing completed on an expedited basis and determine the schedule/completion date with VRTC.