



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

Investigation: PE 15-031
Date Opened: 09/01/2015
Investigator: Sharon Yukevich **Reviewer:** Scott Yon
Approver: Jennifer Timian
Subject: Occupant Classification System Fault

MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

Manufacturer: Kia Motors America
Products: 2007-2009 Kia Spectra
Population: 186,000 (Estimated)

Problem Description: The occupant classification system for the front passenger side air bag may malfunction causing the passenger side air bag to not operate as intended.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	Manufacturer	Total
Complaints:	43	TBD	TBD
Crashes/Fires:	0	TBD	TBD
Injury Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Injuries:	0	TBD	TBD
Fatality Incidents:	0	TBD	TBD
Number of Fatalities:	0	TBD	TBD

ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

Action: Open this Preliminary Evaluation (PE)

Summary:

The Office of Defects Investigation (ODI) has received 43 complaints alleging a malfunction of the front passenger seat occupant classification system (OCS) in 2007-2009 Kia Spectra vehicles. The complaints report illumination of the SRS (air bag) warning light. All of the complaints allege the cause of the light illumination to be a malfunction of the OCS sensor mat imbedded in the passenger seat cushion, and/or report the presence of diagnostic trouble code B1448 which relates to the OCS sensor mat also. Many of the complaints note the malfunction occurred after the warranty period expired and mention high repair costs as a major deterrent to repairing the vehicle.

A malfunction of the OCS mat sensor will cause the air bag diagnostic to detect a fault in the air bag system. This fault may result in either a) the passenger side air bag not being suppressed during a commanded deployment when a child or small adult is seated in the front passenger seat, or b) the passenger air bag system being inoperative (suppressed) when occupied by a passenger that would otherwise require air bag protection.

ODI is opening this preliminary investigation to determine the scope and severity of the potential problem and to fully assess the potential safety-related issues.

The ODI reports cited above are available for review online at <http://www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchNHTSAID> under the following identification numbers: 10745773, 10746133, 10745528, 10721336, 10715846, 10712140, 10712046, 10706009, 10705387, 10681321, 10677080, 10673071, 10654873, 10654522, 10652472, 10651525, 10643205, 10639671, 10638251, 10627289, 10621507, 10620724, 10615883, 10609000, 10607838, 10606252, 10577842, 10568029, 10564527, 10561224, 10558018, 10548300, 10546251, 10515126, 10514578, 10507314, 10505671, 10504605, 10502779, 10500601, 10491709, 10459289, 10421138.