



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

# ODI RESUME

**Investigation:** RQ 17-003  
**Date Opened:** 05/18/2017  
**Investigator:** Stephen Mchenry  
**Approver:** Bruce York-B  
**Subject:** Scope and Timeliness  
**Reviewer:** Greg Magno

## MANUFACTURER & PRODUCT INFORMATION

**Manufacturer:** Kia Motors America  
**Products:** Vehicles subject to Recall No. 17V-224  
**Population:** 618,160 (Estimated)

**Problem Description:** Model Year (MY) 2011-2014 Optima, MY 2012-2014 Sorento, and MY 2011-2013 Sportage vehicles equipped with "Theta II" engines covered by Recall No. 17V-224. The recall addressed a condition which could cause the engine to seize and the vehicle to stall.

## FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

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

## ACTION / SUMMARY INFORMATION

**Action:** A Recall Query has been opened.

### Summary:

On March 31, 2017, Kia Motors America (Kia) filed a Defect Information Report (DIR) recalling 618,160 MY 2011-2014 Optima, MY 2012-2014 Sorento, and MY 2011-2013 Sportage vehicles with "Theta II" engines (Recall No. 17V-224). "Theta II" engines are a family of engines used by both Kia and Hyundai Motor America (Hyundai). Kia's DIR described the defect as an issue involving manufacturing debris as well as a machining process causing an uneven surface roughness which could restrict oil flow within the engine.

Previously, on September 10, 2015, Hyundai filed a DIR recalling certain vehicles containing engines from the shared "Theta II" engine family, describing the defect as an issue involving manufacturing debris. Kia's March 31, 2017, DIR stated that Kia did not conduct a recall upon learning of Hyundai's September 2015 recall because Kia's "Theta II" engines were manufactured on a different production line and did not have the same manufacturing issue.

This RQ is being opened to investigate both the timeliness and scope of Kia's "Theta II" engine recall, and Kia's compliance with reporting requirements.