

HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

A Subsidiary of
Hyundai Motor Company (Korea)

5075 Venture Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Tel: (734) 747-6600
Fax: (734) 747-6699

June 11, 2002

02V-167 ① of ③

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Voluntary Recall Related to FMVSS 201

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Hyundai Motor Company is submitting information concerning a recall that is being voluntarily initiated based upon FMVSS 201 testing conducted for NHTSA by Veridian Engineering, Inc. in April 2002. Specific information as required by Section 573.5 is as follows:

573.5(c)(1)

Manufacturer - Hyundai Motor Company

Distributor - Hyundai Motor America

573.5(c)(2)

Model year 2000, 2001 and 2002 Hyundai Accent 3 door vehicles produced beginning September 16, 1999 through October 19, 2001.

573.5(c)(3)

Approximately 20,872 model year 2000, approximately 33,479 model year 2001, and approximately 13,214 model year 2002 Hyundai Accent 3 door hatchback vehicles produced through October 19, 2001.

573.5(c)(4)

All model year 2000, 2001, and 2002 Hyundai Accent 3 door vehicles produced through October 19, 2001 are affected

573.5(c)(5)

During FMVSS 201 testing conducted for NHTSA at Veridian Engineering, Inc. in April 2002, the instrumented free motion headform registered a HIC(d) of 1080 during a 23.7 km/h impact at the right A-pillar target location AP3.

573.5(c)(7)

The A-pillar cover energy absorbing ribs may be displaced and their ability to absorb energy may be diminished during certain variations of AP3 target tests. Depending upon the individual test, this may decrease the margin between the test result and the standard. To increase the compliance margin at the AP3 target, beginning with October 20, 2001 production, HMC added a metal bracket to the A-pillar cover in the AP3 target area and revised the metal bracket in the AP2 target area. These brackets manage the energy distribution in the target areas and allow a greater margin to be maintained between test results and the standard.

After NHTSA conducted a test during April 2002 of a model year 2002 Accent 3 door hatchback that was manufactured before the A-pillar cover bracket changes were incorporated, Hyundai decided to conduct a recall campaign of all model year 2000, 2001, and 2002 Hyundai Accent 3 door vehicles produced through October 19, 2001 to install new energy management brackets to further support the A-pillar covers and increase the performance margin of the A-pillar during FMVSS 201 testing.

573.5(c)(8)

All owners of record of affected vehicles will be contacted by first class mail and instructed to bring their vehicles to Hyundai dealers to have energy management brackets installed to further support the A-pillar covers at no cost to the vehicle owners.

Hyundai is presently developing a procedure that may be used at Hyundai dealers to install these energy management brackets. A date when this procedure will be available has not been determined. NHTSA will be informed when the procedure has been completed and when an owner notification schedule can be developed.

573.5(c)(9)

The Technical Service Bulletin containing the service procedure for installing the A-pillar cover energy management brackets will be provided to NHTSA when available. Other relevant communications will also be forwarded when they are available.

573.5(c)(10)

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached.

573.5(c)(11)

Hyundai has assigned "Campaign 055" as the designation for this campaign.

Sincerely,

Robert Babcock
Manager, Corporate Affairs

CC: Ms. Karen Nuschler, OVSC

Attachments: 1

DRAFT

MOTOR VEHICLE RECALL

02V-167 ③ of ③

Dear 2000-2002 Accent 3 Door Hatchback Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act.

Based upon the results of a test conducted by a contractor for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Hyundai has decided to recall certain 2000-2002 model year Accent 3 door hatchback vehicles, manufactured through October 19, 2001, to enhance conformance to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 201, Occupant protection in interior impact.

What is the problem?

- FMVSS 201 requires that upper interior components meet specific head injury criteria standards when impacted at defined locations by a free motion headform moving at 15 mph. Numerous upper interior impact locations specified by FMVSS 201 apply to the 2000-2002 Accent 3 door hatchback.

During a test conducted by a contractor for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the 2000-2002 Accent 3 door hatchback exceeded the performance criterion in the standard at one location, AP3, approximately midway along the length of the right windshield support pillar (right A-pillar).

An occupant's head that contacts the A-pillar at location AP3 during a collision may experience an increased risk of a head injury as a result of this condition.

What will Hyundai do?

- To improve your vehicle's conformance with the requirements of FMVSS 201, we are asking you to schedule an appointment as soon as possible to take your vehicle to your Hyundai dealer. The Hyundai dealer will install new energy management brackets to support the A-pillar covers and increase the energy absorbing performance of the A-pillar AP3 location in an FMVSS 201 test. The procedure will be performed at no charge to you. You should plan to leave your vehicle at your Hyundai dealer for a half day to have these energy management brackets installed.

What should you do?

- We urge you to call your Hyundai dealer to schedule an appointment to have this work performed as soon as possible.

What if you have other questions?

- If you have any difficulty having this repair performed, we recommend that you call the Hyundai Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-633-5151. If you are still not satisfied that we have remedied this situation without charge, and within a reasonable amount of time, you may wish to write to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S. W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call their toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

We urge your prompt attention to this important safety matter.

Hyundai Motor America