

HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

A Subsidiary of
Hyundai Motor Company (Korea)

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March 9, 2004

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

04V-131 ① of ④

RE: Defect Information Report

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. Specific information as required by Section 573.6 is as follows:

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NHTSA-215
2004 MAR 16 P 11
OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

573.6(c)(1)

Manufacturer - Hyundai Motor Company

Distributor - Hyundai Motor America

573.6(c)(2)

Model year 2003 and 2004 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles produced beginning September 3, 2002 through February 27, 2004 that are equipped with 3.5 liter V-6 engines, 4 Wheel Drive (4WD) and anti-lock brake systems (ABS).

573.6(c)(3)

Approximately 17,401 model year 2003 and 2004 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles produced beginning September 3, 2002 through February 27, 2004 that are equipped with 3.5 liter V-6 engines, 4WD and ABS.

573.6(c)(4)

All model year 2003 and 2004 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles produced beginning September 3, 2002 through February 27, 2004 that are equipped with 3.5 liter V-6 engines, 4WD and ABS are affected.

573.6(c)(5)

Normal ABS operation allows brake pressure to increase and decrease to modulate the brakes at speeds above 7 kph (4 mph). At speeds below 7 kph, only brake pressure increases are allowed when the brakes are applied.

If the brake pedal is depressed at speeds between 5 and 20 kph (3 and 12 mph) when the brake pad friction surfaces are wet, a condition called creep vibration may occur between the brake disc and pad. Creep vibration may cause ABS sensor electronic signal noise. The ABS ECU may misinterpret the ABS sensor signal noise as indicating that the speed is above 7 kph, causing it to activate the ABS, extending the stopping distance.

573.6(c)(6)

Hyundai Motor Company became aware of this condition after receiving information in February 2004 about extended stopping distances experienced with 3.5 liter Santa Fe vehicles equipped with 4WD and ABS at low speeds. During February 2004, an evaluation of this condition was conducted by Hyundai Motor Company and its supplier was notified. Evaluation by the supplier led to the determination that the ABS ECU programming logic results in this condition. The ABS ECU program was changed in production to correct this condition on February 28, 2004.

Hyundai Motor Company has decided to conduct a recall in the United States to reprogram the ABS ECUs of model year 2003 and 2004 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles produced beginning September 3, 2002 through February 27, 2004 that are equipped with 3.5 liter V-6 engines, 4WD and ABS. In March 2004, Hyundai Motor Company provided notice to the United States distributor of Hyundai automobiles that it intended to conduct a recall to correct this condition. Hyundai is aware of fifteen customer contacts to Hyundai Motor America or its dealers related to this condition.

573.6(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. The ABS ECU will be reprogrammed to correct this condition.

Hyundai anticipates that this recall campaign will be initiated during March 2004 and will be completed in one weekly mailing.

Brake related repairs affected by this recall would have been covered for 5 years or 60,000 miles under Hyundai's new vehicle limited warranty. As no owners of these 2003 and 2004 model

year vehicles would have incurred expenses for this warranted repair as a result of this condition, Hyundai believes that it is not necessary, and should not be required, to provide notification regarding reimbursement under section 577.11.

573.6(c)(9)

The Technical Service Bulletin containing the service procedure for reprogramming the ABS ECU will be provided to NHTSA when available. Other relevant communications will also be forwarded when they are available.

573.6(c)(10)

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached.

573.6(c)(11)

Hyundai has assigned "Campaign 065" as the designation for this campaign.

Sincerely,



Robert Babcock
Manager, Corporate Affairs

Attachments: 1

DRAFT

MOTOR VEHICLE RECALL

04V-131 ④ or ④

Dear 2003 and 2004 Santa Fe Owner:

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

Federal law requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

Hyundai has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in 2003 and certain 2004 model year Santa Fe vehicles produced through February 27, 2004 that are equipped with 3.5 liter V-6 engines, 4 wheel drive, and antilock brake systems (ABS).

What is the problem?

- If the brake pedal is depressed at speeds between 3 and 12 mph when the brake pad friction surfaces are wet, a vibration may occur between the brake discs and pads, causing ABS sensor electronic signal noise to develop. At speeds below 5 mph, the ABS sensor signal noise may cause the ABS electronic control unit (ECU) to activate the ABS, extending the stopping distance.

If an extended stopping distance occurs at speeds below 5 mph, it may result in an accident.

What will Hyundai do?

- To ensure that your vehicle does not experience extended stopping distance at speeds below 5 mph as a result of inadvertent ABS activation, we are asking you to schedule an appointment as soon as possible to take your vehicle to your Hyundai dealer. The Hyundai dealer will reprogram your vehicle's ABS ECU. This procedure will be performed at no charge to you. You should plan to leave your vehicle at your Hyundai dealer to have this service performed. Repair times will vary and depend on your dealer's appointment schedule.

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.

Until then, if you wish to prevent the possibility of ABS operation at speeds below 5 mph prior to receiving the ABS ECU reprogramming service, you may remove the ABS fuse located in the underhood fuse and relay box. Please refer to your owner's manual. Removing the ABS fuse will prevent ABS system operation and will cause the ABS warning light to illuminate, but will not affect normal brake operation.

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