

HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

A Subsidiary of
Hyundai Motor Company (Korea)

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2004 APR -9 A 9 19

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OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

April 7, 2004

Mr. Kenneth N. Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance (NSA-01)
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

04V-179
(8 pages)

Re: Recall Campaign: 2001MY-2004MY Rio and Rio Cinco Fuel Distributor
Assembly and Main Fuel Tube Assembly

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

The following information is submitted in accordance with the requirements of Part 573,
Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

573.6 (c)(1)

Manufacturer:
Importer:
Agent Designated by Manufacturer:

Kia Motors Corp.
Kia Motors America, Inc.
Alfred E. Gloddeck
Hyundai America Technical Center, Inc.

573.6 (c)(2)

Identification of Vehicle, Make,
Model Year and Manufacturing
Date:

Model year 2001-2004 Kia Rio and Rio
Cinco vehicles produced from May 4, 2000
through March 31, 2004.

573.6 (c)(3)

Total Number of Vehicles:

Approximately 187,790 model year 2001-
2004 Kia Rio and Rio Cinco vehicles.

573.6 (c)(4)

Percentage of Vehicles
Estimated to Actually Contain
the Defect:

The percentage of vehicles identified in
573.6(c)(2) that exhibit the defective
condition (i.e., fuel leakage) is unknown but
is believed to be small.

573.6 (c)(5)

Description of the Defect:

Kia has determined that the fuel intake nipple
of the fuel distributor is subject to fracture or
cracking during removal of the quick connect

coupling securing the main fuel tube assembly to the fuel intake nipple, or when force is accidentally applied to the intake nipple during the vehicle assembly process or during engine compartment repairs. If this occurs, fuel leakage can result and fire might occur if an ignition source is present.

573.6 (c)(6)

Basis for Defect Determination and Chronology:

This defect was identified by Kia Motors America and Kia Motors Corp. following an evaluation of 42 warranty claims and 28 non-injury fire incidents that were identified as potentially relating to the defective condition, field investigation, and internal testing. Kia's investigation did not disclose any accidents, injuries or fatalities that relate or may relate to this condition.

Apr. 18, 2003	KMA received notice from NHTSA of PE03-016.
~May 2, 2003	KMA and KMC Initiated an investigation.
Jun. 13, 2003	KMA sent NHTSA information regarding its investigation to date.
Jul. 18, 2003	KMA sent NHTSA further information regarding its investigation to date.
Aug. 13, 2003	KMA sent NHTSA further information regarding its investigation to date.
Sep. 12, 2003	KMA and KMC determined that a safety related defect existed in the 2001 Kia Rio, and verbally notified the Office of Defects Investigation that it would give notice pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.
Sep. 22, 2003	KMA sent NHTSA notice pursuant to 49 CFR Part 573.

Sep. 22 – Nov. 7, 2003	KMC conducted further testing and analysis to evaluate whether to include 2002–2004 Kia Rio and Kia Rio Cinco vehicles in the recall campaign.
Nov. 20, 2003	KMA received notice from NHTSA of EA03-015
Jan. 13, 2004	KMA sent NHTSA further information regarding its investigation to date.
Feb. 12, 2004	KMA sent NHTSA further information regarding its investigation to date.
Mar. 31, 2004	KMA and KMC determined that a safety related defect existed in the 2002–2004 Kia Rio and Rio Cinco vehicles.

576.6(c)(8)
Program to Remedy Defect:

Kia has redesigned the fuel distributor assembly and main fuel tube assembly to reduce the potential for damage to the fuel intake nipple. The new fuel distributor incorporates a steel intake nipple, and the quick connect coupling for the main fuel tube has been changed to make it easier to remove, thereby reducing the possibility that the intake nipple might be overstressed during assembly or post-sale repairs. All owners of affected vehicles identified in this response will be notified, by first class mail, to bring their vehicle to a Kia dealer to have the fuel distributor and main fuel tube replaced at no charge.

573.6 (c)(9)(10)
Notices:

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached. The Technical Service Bulletin will be provided to NHTSA in the near future. Mailing dates to the customers will begin in mid-June and be sent out in four waves two weeks apart according to model year.

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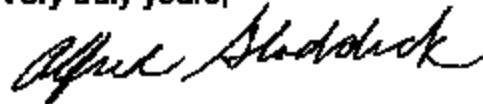
573.6 (c)(11)

Campaign Designation:

Kia's campaign designation for this recall
is SC036.

If you or your staff have questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me in writing at the above address or telephone Jim Deel, Manager, Product Quality, Kia Motors America, Inc. at (949) 470-7047.

Very truly yours,



Alfred E. Gloddeck
Senior Manager – Corporate Affairs

cc: Mr. Thomas Z. Cooper
Vehicle Integrity Division
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

June 24, 2004

Dear Kia Rio Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Kia Motors America, Inc. has determined that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2001–2004 Rio and Rio Cinco models.

What is the problem?

- Kia has become aware of reports of fuel leakage from the Fuel Distributor Assembly in some 2001–2004 Model Year Rio and Rio Cinco vehicles that can result in fire.

What will Kia do?

- Because Kia cares about your safety, Kia will replace the Fuel Distributor and Main Fuel Tube Assemblies at no cost to you.

What should you do?

- Please call your Kia dealer to schedule a service appointment. The time required to repair your vehicle should be less than one hour. However, depending on the dealer's work schedule, it may be necessary to make your vehicle available for a longer period of time. Please present this notice when you arrive at the dealer.

What if you have other questions?

- If your dealer does not respond to your service request in a timely manner, we suggest that you call Kia's Consumer Assistance Center at 1-800-333-4542. If you still are 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.
- If you have already had the Fuel Distributor Assembly or Main Fuel Tube Assembly repaired or replaced at your own expense because of problems with fuel leakage, you may qualify for reimbursement of your repair or replacement costs. Contact the Kia Consumer Assistance Center for further information at 1-800-333-4542.

This action has been taken in the interest of your safety, and we regret any inconvenience this situation may cause you.

Sincerely,

Consumer Affairs Department

May 2004

Attention: All Kia Service Managers

Kia Motors America, Inc., in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, is conducting a voluntary Recall Campaign on 2001-2004 Rio and Rio Cinco models to replace the Fuel Distributor Assembly and Main Fuel Tube Assembly. Enclosed is a Technical Service Bulletin that provides the following information:

- Vehicle Repair Procedures
- Affected VIN Production Range
- Parts Information
- Warranty Claim Information

Also enclosed is a copy of the owner notification letter, a Q&A guide for recall questions, and a list of your in-stock vehicles and retail Kia Rio and Rio Cinco owners affected by the recall. The owner letters will be mailed in four waves two weeks apart according to model year beginning on June 2004. Please start performing the repairs on any affected in-stock 2001-2004 Rio and Rio Cinco models immediately.

Please make certain the appropriate personnel in your dealership are familiar with the details of this recall to ensure proper responses to customer inquiries and requests to have the recall performed on their 2001-2004 Rio and Rio Cinco vehicles.

LEGAL LIABILITY NOTICE: Pursuant to the terms of the Dealer Sales and Service Agreement and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley federal consumer privacy act, you are required to keep confidential any and all information and documents provided to you by Kia Motors America, Inc. or generated by you in the conduct of carrying out work under that Agreement regarding Kia vehicle purchasers and owners, including but not limited to warranty claim information. Kia dealers may use such owner information for the sole purpose of conducting and performing this voluntary recall campaign, and for no other purpose.

Your prompt attention in completing this recall is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact your Kia District Parts/Service Manager.

Sincerely,

Jim Deel
Manager Technical Field Operations

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR SERVICE CAMPAIGN (SC036)

**2001-2004 Rio and Rio Cinco Fuel Distributor and
Main Fuel Tube Assemblies Replacement
May XX, 2004**

Q1. What is the problem with the Fuel Distributor and Main Fuel Tube Assemblies?

A1. *Kia has determined that the fuel intake nipple of the Fuel Distributor Assembly in affected 2001-2004 model year Rio and Rio Cinco vehicles is subject to fracture or cracking during removal of the quick connect coupling that secures the Main Fuel Tube Assembly to the fuel intake nipple, or when force is accidentally applied to the intake nipple during the vehicle assembly process or during engine compartment repairs. If this occurs, fuel leakage can result and fire might occur if an ignition source is present.*

Q2. What could happen if the fuel leaks?

A2. *If an ignition source is present, fire might occur.*

Q3. Can you describe the fix?

A3. *Kia has redesigned the fuel distributor assembly and main fuel tube assembly to reduce the potential for damage to the fuel intake nipple. The new fuel distributor incorporates a steel intake nipple, and the quick connect coupling for the main fuel tube has been changed to make it easier to remove, thereby reducing the possibility that the intake nipple might be overstressed during assembly or post-sale repairs. All owners of affected vehicles identified in this response will be notified to bring their vehicle to a Kia dealer to have the fuel distributor and main fuel tube replaced at no charge.*

Q4. Have there been any deaths, injuries or incidents as a result of this defect?

A4. *Kia's investigation disclosed 28 fire incidents that relate or potentially relate to this defect, none of which involved collisions, death or injury.*

Q5. Has Kia had any litigation regarding this defect?

A5. *Kia has received notice of litigation alleging vehicle damage, but none involving allegations of injury or death.*

Q6. How many vehicles are affected by this campaign?

A6. *Approximately 187,790 model year 2001–2004 Kia Rio and Rio Cinco vehicles produced from May 4, 2000 through March 31, 2004 are affected by this campaign.*

Q7. How was this problem discovered?

A7. *Kia discovered this problem as a result of cooperative communications with the National Highway Traffic Administration and through its ongoing vehicle monitoring programs.*

Q8. Will this cost Rio owners any money?

A8. *No. Fuel Distributor Assembly and Main Fuel Tube Assembly will be replaced at no cost.*

Q9. How long will the repair take?

A9. *The repair will take less than one hour. Owners are being asked to contact their nearest dealer to schedule an appointment.*

Q10. How will owners of the affected vehicles be notified?

A10. *Within a week, Kia will notify owners of the affected vehicles by first-class mail.*

Q11. Are there any restrictions on an owner's eligibility?

A11. *No.*

Q12. Where were the vehicles produced?

A12. *The affected vehicles were produced at Kia's Sohori plant in South Korea.*