



HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

A Subsidiary of
Hyundai Motor Company (Korea)

12610 East End Avenue
Chino, CA 91710

RECEIVED
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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

Tel: (909) 627-3525
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April 8, 2004

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

Re: Recall Campaign
2002MY – 2003MY Optima Fuel Tank Assembly Valve

04V-180
(5 pages)

Dear Mr. Weinsteln:

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:

Certain model year 2002 and 2003 Kia
Optima vehicles produced from October 1,
2001 through November 9, 2002.

573.6 (c)(3)

Total Number of Vehicles:

Approximately 25,803 model year 2002
and 2003 Kia Optima vehicles were
produced from October 1, 2001 through
November 9, 2002.

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 is unknown but is believed to be
small.

573.6 (c)(5)

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Description of the Defect:

In a limited number of affected vehicles the fuel tank assembly valve may not close properly. If a vehicle with a fuel tank assembly valve that is not properly closed were to roll over, fuel spillage may occur. If that occurred, there is a possibility that the fuel spillage may exceed the limits established by FMVSS 301, Fuel System Integrity.

573.6 (c)(7)

Basis for Noncompliance Determination and Chronology:

Kia has received no information regarding accidents, incidents, injuries or consumer complaints related to the Fuel Tank Assembly Valve. This recall is prompted by a recall of the same or a substantially similar part used by Hyundai Motor Company (HMC). Transport Canada conducted a compliance test under CMVSS 301 on a Hyundai XG350. In that test, a small amount (~ 10 grams) of leakage of test liquid was measured. It was not reported as a non-compliance by Transport Canada because the quantity of spillage was within the allowance of CMVSS 301. HMC has evaluated the Canadian test vehicle and determined that it would conduct a non-compliance recall in both Canada and the U.S. for those models which had that Fuel Tank Assembly Valve. On April 2, HMC advised Kia Motors Corp. (KMC) that it would be conducting such recalls. KMC then conducted an evaluation and determined that the problematical valve was used in some Optima vehicles. On

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April 2, KMC decided that a recall of such Optimas should be conducted and advised KMA. KMC and KMA then worked jointly to determine which vehicles contained the part in its problematical form and would be subject to a recall.

573.6 (c)(8)

Program to Remedy Defect:

All owners of vehicles identified in (C)(3) will be notified, by first class mail, to bring their vehicle to a Kia dealer to have an additional fuel tank assembly valve installed in each vehicle at no charge.

No owners of the identified 2002 or 2003 model year vehicles would have incurred repair expenses because of Kia's warranty coverage. However, if any customer has incurred any expenses to remedy the defect, they will be offered the opportunity to obtain a reimbursement for those expenses.

573.6 (C)(9)

Notices:

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached. The Technical Service Bulletin and the mailing dates to customers will be provided to NHTSA in the near future.

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,

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Kia Motors America, Inc. at (949) 470-7021.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Al Gloddeck (USA)". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alfred E. Gloddeck
Senior Manager – Corporate Affairs

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

May XX, 2004

Dear Kia Optima 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 2002–2003 Optima models.

What is the problem?

- Kia has become aware that on certain 2002-2003 Optima models the fuel tank assembly valve may not close properly. If a vehicle rolls over and the fuel tank assembly valve is not properly closed, fuel spillage may occur.

What will Kia do?

- To ensure that your vehicle's fuel tank assembly valve will operate properly, your Kia dealer will install an additional fuel tank assembly valve 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 the fuel tank assembly valve replaced at your own expense, you may obtain reimbursement by contacting the Kia Consumer Assistance Center 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