

# HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

A Subsidiary of  
Hyundai Motor Company (Korea)

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Irvine, CA 92618

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March 25, 2005

## VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Kathleen C. DeMeter  
Director  
Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Recall Campaign  
2005 MY Kia Sportage ESP Control Module

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

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

### 573.6(C)(1)

Manufacturer:	Kia Motors Corp.
Importer:	Kia Motors America, Inc.
Agent Designated by Manufacturer:	Alfred E. Gloddeck Hyundai America Technical Center, Inc.

### 573.6(C)(2)

Identification of Vehicle, Make, Model Year and Manufacturing Date:	All model year 2005 Kia Sportage vehicles produced from June 24, 2004 through February 27, 2005
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### 573.6(C)(3)

Total Number of Vehicles	Approximately 7,619 Kia Sportage vehicles for the 2005 Model Year have been delivered to dealers or customers and will be recalled.. Another 2,026 vehicles will have this change made at the port prior to being shipped to dealers. All 9,465 vehicles in this production range will be corrected.
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### 573.6(C)(4)

Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect:	The defect potentially exists in all vehicles identified in (C)(3).
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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

05V-120  
(5 pages)

**573.6(C)(5)**

Description of the Defect:

The 2005 model year Sportage is equipped with an Electronic Stability Program (ESP). The ESP Hydraulic Electronic Control Unit (HECU) helps control the operation of the vehicle based upon the processing of information received from the vehicle sensors.

Each time the vehicle is traveling at speeds less than 1.2 mph, the yaw rate sensor offset is recalibrated. If the wheels are turned during this calibration process, the yaw rate sensor offset may be inaccurately set. As a result, the ESP would consider the yaw rate to be higher than actual, and the ESP may activate when it is not needed. .

The operator has the option of deactivating the ESP by pushing the switch on the instrument panel.

**573.6(C)(6)**

Basis for Defect Determination and Chronology;

Kia Motors Corp. (KMC) became aware of this condition after receiving information from the European market in February 2005 about possible inadvertent front brake application while driving through turns. During February 2005, KMC and its supplier conducted an evaluation of this condition and made changes to production vehicles as of February 28<sup>th</sup>. KMC continued its evaluation and analysis of the issue from a safety standpoint in all markets and notified Kia Motors America on March 22, 2005 that the product condition described in section (c)(5) existed and warranted a safety recall. Kia Motors America does not have any customer contacts, Techline cases, field reports or Warranty claims regarding this issue.

**573.6(C)(8)(i)**

Program to Remedy Defect:

Any dealer stock with the condition will be modified. All owners of vehicles will be notified by first class mail to bring their vehicle to a Kia dealer to have the ESP ECU upgraded with new logic at no charge.

**573.6(C)(8)(ii)**

Estimated Date for Notification of

The estimated date of notification to dealers is

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Safety-Related Defect to Owners and  
Dealers

beginning of April 2005. It is estimated that owner  
notification letters will be sent by the end of April  
2005.

**573.6(C)(11)**

Notices

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

**573.6(C)(12)**

Manufacturer's Campaign Number If  
Different From Identification Number  
Assigned by NHTSA

SC-044

If you or your staff has questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me in  
writing at the above address.

Very truly yours,



Alfred E. Gloddeck  
Senior Manager -- Corporate Affairs

# SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

April 13, 2005

Dear Kia Sportage 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 decided that a defect relating to motor vehicle safety exists in certain 2005 Sportage models equipped with ESP (Electronic Stability Program). The ESP is designed to aid driver control of the vehicle in potentially unstable conditions such as during severe turning and evasive maneuvers and on wet/icy roads.

## **What is the problem and what can you do to operate your vehicle more safely?**

- On certain 2005 Sportage vehicles produced between June 24, 2004 and February 27, 2005, the Electronic Stability Program (ESP) may brake the vehicle unexpectedly due to improper calibration of the ESP. Calibration occurs each time your vehicle speed is below 1 mph. Such miscalibration could occur if your wheels are turned at that low speed. In the event of miscalibration, unexpected braking could later occur without warning and could cause a crash.
- The safest way to operate your vehicle is to turn off the ESP until the recall repair is conducted on your vehicle.. The ESP switch is located on the instrument panel to the left of the steering wheel. **In any case, have this important safety recall completed as promptly as possible.**
- If you anticipate driving conditions which are likely to be unstable, you may use the ESP, but you then **MUST** always start driving your Sportage with the wheels in a straight ahead direction until you are going more than 1 mph. **Since you must remember this instruction each time you start your Sportage, have this important safety recall conducted as promptly as possible.**

## **What will Kia do?**

- Kia will upgrade the ESP at no cost to you, when you take your vehicle to your Kia dealership.

If you have incurred expense to remedy this defect prior to the date of this notice, you may have the opportunity to obtain reimbursement for that expense. Since the ESP in your vehicle is covered by a 5-year/60,000 mile warranty, any such repair should have been made under that warranty at no expense to you. However, if you incurred an emergency repair where you did not have access to a Kia dealer, please contact the Kia Consumer Assistance number listed below for assistance in submitting your claim.

## **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.

## **Have you changed your address or sold your Kia?**

- If you have changed your home address, sold your Kia vehicle, or no longer own your vehicle, please complete the attached prepaid “Change of Address/Ownership” card and mail it to us.

**What if you are a vehicle lessor?**

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

**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. This number has TTY capability. 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.

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