



# HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

A Subsidiary of  
Hyundai Motor Company (Korea)

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April 27, 2005

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS**

George Person  
Chief of Recall Division  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Recall Campaign  
2005 MY Kia Sportage Fuel Tank

05V-212  
(5 pages)

DEFECTS INVESTIGATION  
OFFICE OF  
2005 MAY - 3 A 11: 14  
RECEIVED  
NVS-215

Dear Mr. Person:

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 October 28, 2004 through March 26, 2005
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**573.6(C)(3)**

Total Number of Vehicles	Approximately 10,360 2005MY Kia Sportage vehicles in the production range specified in (c)(2).
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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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**573.6(C)(5)**

Description of the Defect:	On some 2005MY Sportage vehicles at some full tank conditions, fuel may leak from an O-ring into the internal vapor chamber located in the fuel tank at full
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tank condition. Under certain conditions the following may occur:

- Engine stalls when coming to a stop
- Hard to fill the gas tank
- External fuel leaks from the evaporative air filter inlet.

**573.6(C)(6)**

Basis for Defect Determination and Chronology;

Kia Motors America, Inc. (KMA) became aware of this condition through its routine early warning systems and field monitoring in March 2005. Following the discovery, Kia Motors Corp. (KMC) conducted further testing, evaluation and analysis of the condition. On April 22, 2005, KMC concluded its analysis and determined that the fuel tank was defective. KMC notified KMA on April 25, 2005 that the product condition described in section (c)(5) existed and warranted a safety recall.

We have identified the following claims within the specified production timeline:

83 Tech Line Cases

34 Warranty Claims

2 Field Reports

13 Customer Assistance Claims

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

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 the fuel tank inspected and replaced, if necessary, at no charge. If the fuel tank is replaced, the vehicles will also require replacement of the charcoal canister assembly.

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

Estimated Date for Notification of Safety-Related Defect to Owners and Dealers

The estimated date of notification to dealers is middle of May 2005. The estimated date of notification to owners is end of May 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.

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**573.6(C)(12)**

Manufacturer's Campaign Number If SC-048  
Different From Identification Number  
Assigned by NHTSA

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

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alfred E. Gloddeck", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Alfred E. Gloddeck  
Senior Manager—Corporate Affairs

# SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

May XX, 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.

## **What is the problem?**

On certain 2005 Sportage vehicles produced between October 28, 2004 and March 26, 2005, fuel may leak from an O-ring into the internal vapor chamber located in the fuel tank at full tank conditions. Under certain conditions the following may occur:

- Engine stalls when coming to a stop
- Hard to fill the gas tank
- External fuel may leak from the evaporative air filter inlet

## **What can you immediately do to protect yourself and others?**

As this problem occurs at a full tank condition, do not top-off the fuel tank and avoid full throttle starts. Please have your vehicle repaired as promptly as possible as described below.

## **What will Kia do?**

- Kia will inspect the fuel tank and replace, if necessary, at no charge to you. If the fuel tank is replaced, it will also include the replacement of the charcoal canister.
- 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 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 approximately 2 hours. 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