

HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

A Subsidiary of
Hyundai Motor Company (Korea)

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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

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RECEIVED
05-215

Mr. Ronald Medford
Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Medford:

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:

573.6(c)(1)

Manufacturer - Hyundai Motor Company

Distributor - Hyundai Motor America

573.6(c)(2)

Certain model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata vehicles equipped with 3.3 liter engines and produced beginning May 5, 2005 through June 10, 2005.

573.6(c)(3)

Approximately 2,017 model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata vehicles equipped with 3.3 liter engines and produced beginning May 5, 2005 through June 10, 2005.

573.6(c)(4)

Approximately fifteen percent of the model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata vehicles equipped with 3.3 liter engines and produced beginning May 5, 2005 through June 10, 2005 identified in 573.6(c)(3).

573.6(c)(5)

The 2006 model year Sonata is equipped with Electronic Stability Control (ESC). The ESC Hydraulic Electronic Control Unit (HECU) controls the operation of the ESC based upon the processing of information received from various sensors, as follows:

Wheel Speed Sensors – measure the rotational speed of each wheel

Steering Angle Sensor – measures the position of the steering wheel

Brake Pressure Sensor – measures the brake line pressure at the master cylinder

Yaw Rate and Acceleration Sensor – measures the vehicle's yaw rate and lateral acceleration

While driving through a curve, the ESC evaluates lateral acceleration to determine if oversteering is beginning to occur. The ESC also evaluates rear outside wheel speed to confirm that oversteering is beginning to occur. In response to the onset of oversteering, the ESC HECU applies the front brake that is opposite to the direction that the vehicle is oversteering, thereby causing the vehicle to follow the direction the driver is steering.

The ESC HECU program contained in the vehicles identified in 573.6(c)(4) does not fully account for the wheel speed sensor electronic noise that may be generated by mechanical vibration. This wheel speed sensor signal noise may result in oversensitivity of the ESC while driving on banked curves, causing inadvertent application of the front outside brake.

The ESC switch on the instrument panel can be pushed to turn off the ESC.

573.6(c)(6)

Hyundai Motor Company became aware of possible inadvertent ESC activation while driving on banked curves during preproduction vehicle evaluations. The ESC HECU program was revised prior to production to correct this condition.

Inadvertently mixed stock at the manufacturing facility resulted in the installation of the preproduction ESC program into some production vehicles equipped with 3.3 liter engines, as identified in 573.6(c)(4).

Hyundai Motor Company has decided to conduct a recall in the United States to reprogram the ESC HECUs of the model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata vehicles equipped with 3.3 liter engines and produced beginning May 5, 2005 through June 10, 2005, as identified in 573.6(c)(3). In late June 2005, 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 not aware of any customer contacts to Hyundai Motor America or its dealers related to this condition. Hyundai is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to this condition.

HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

573.6(c)(8)

All owners of record of the affected vehicles will be contacted by first class mail and instructed to bring their vehicles to Hyundai dealers. Hyundai dealers will reprogram the ESC HECU in each vehicle.

Hyundai anticipates the recall owner notification will be completed in one mailing during July 2005. Hyundai anticipates that dealers will be notified by July 12, 2005.

Reprogramming or other service to the ESC HECU of all vehicles 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 2006 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 ESC HECU 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 070" as the designation for the campaign.

Sincerely,



Robert Babcock
Manager, Corporate Affairs

Attachments: 1

DRAFT MOTOR VEHICLE RECALL

Dear 2006 Sonata 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 certain model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata vehicles equipped with 3.3 liter engines that were produced during the period beginning on May 5, 2005 through June 10, 2005.

What is the problem?

- Your vehicle is equipped with Electronic Stability Control (ESC), which can monitor your vehicle as it is being driven and detect if the vehicle is oversteering or understeering. The ESC contained in your vehicle may have been programmed to be oversensitive to the onset of oversteering while driving on banked curves, causing inadvertent application of the front outside brake when ESC activation may not be needed. This may cause the vehicle to slow and may affect the path that the vehicle is traveling. Brake application caused by inadvertent ESC activation may result in a crash.

The ESC switch, located on the instrument panel to the left of the steering wheel, may be pressed to turn off the ESC and prevent inadvertent ESC activation.

What will Hyundai do?

- To ensure that your vehicle's Electronic Stability Control (ESC) works properly, 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 the ESC Hydraulic Electronic Control Unit (HECU). 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.

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 Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153), or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

We urge your prompt attention to this important safety matter.

Hyundai Motor America