



# HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

A Subsidiary of  
Hyundai Motor Company (Korea)

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August 26, 2005

*05V-377  
(4 pages)*

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 produced beginning April 14, 2005 through August 16, 2005.

573.6(c)(3)

Approximately 36,000 model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata vehicles produced beginning April 14, 2005 through August 16, 2005.

573.6(c)(4)

The percentage of model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata vehicles produced beginning April 14, 2005 through August 16, 2005 that represents the approximately 36,000 vehicles that are affected by this recall has not been determined at this time.

573.6(c)(5)

During an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) 40 mph 40 percent offset frontal barrier test of a model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata conducted on June 28, 2005, the driver's seat belt appears to have interfered with the manual front seat back recliner knob, apparently inadvertently releasing the seat back recliner mechanism. The inadvertent release of a front seat back recliner may result in injury to vehicle occupants.

This condition affects certain model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata vehicles manufactured beginning April 14, 2005 through August 16, 2005.

573.6(c)(6)

Hyundai Motor Company became aware of the potential for inadvertent manual seat back recliner release as a result of the June 28, 2005 IIHS 40 mph 40 percent offset frontal barrier test.

Hyundai Motor Company has revised the design of the manual front seat back recliner knob to prevent potential interference with the front seat belt that may result in inadvertent release of the seat back recliner mechanism. The revised design part was placed into production on July 28, 2005 on four cylinder engine equipped models and on August 16, 2005 on six cylinder engine equipped models. Hyundai Motor Company has also decided to conduct a recall in the United States to replace the manual seat back recliner knob(s) of certain model year 2006 Hyundai Sonata vehicles produced beginning April 14, 2005 through August 16, 2005. In mid-August 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.

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 replace the manual front seat back recliner knob(s) in each vehicle.

Hyundai anticipates the recall owner notification will be completed in two mailings during October 2005. Hyundai anticipates that dealers will be notified by October 5, 2005.

Replacement or other service to the manual front seat back recliner knob 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.

HYUNDAI AMERICA TECHNICAL CENTER, INC.

573.6(c)(9)

The Technical Service Bulletin containing the service procedure for replacing the manual front seat back recliner knob 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 072" 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 that were produced during the period beginning on April 14, 2005 through August 16, 2005.

## **What is the problem?**

- The front seat belt may interfere with the manual seat back recliner knob and may cause the front manual seat back recliner to inadvertently release.

The inadvertent release of a front seat back recliner may result in injury to vehicle occupants.

## **What will Hyundai do?**

- To ensure that your vehicle's manual seat back recliner knob(s) will not be inadvertently released as a result of interference with the seat belt(s), we are asking you to schedule an appointment as soon as possible to take your vehicle to your Hyundai dealer. The Hyundai dealer will replace your vehicle's manual seat back recliner knob(s) with new parts that have been designed to prevent potential interference. 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