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OFFICE OF
DEFECTS INVESTIGATION

05V-450
(7 pages)



HYUNDAI · KIA MOTORS

September 30, 2005

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

RE: Safety Recall 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 2005 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles produced beginning August 10, 2004 through November 5, 2004.

HYUNDAI · KIA MOTORS
Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center Inc.
6800 Geddes Road, Superior Township, MI 48198
TEL : 734-337-9499 FAX : 734-337-3168
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573.6(c)(3)

Approximately 12,000 model year 2005 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles produced beginning August 10, 2004 through November 5, 2004.

573.6(c)(4)

All of the model year 2005 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles produced beginning August 10, 2004 through November 5, 2004.

573.6(c)(5)

2005 model year Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles are equipped with an Occupant Classification System (OCS) that meets the passenger advanced airbag suppression and activation requirements of FMVSS 208. During a NHTSA Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance evaluation of a 2005 model year Hyundai Santa Fe, the test indicated that during some seatings a 6 year old child may be misclassified as an adult when seated in a position described by S22.2.2.4 as sitting on the edge, spine vertical, hands by the sides. The misclassification of a 6 year old sitting on the edge, spine vertical, hands by the sides may allow the right front passenger airbags to deploy in an accident.

This condition affects 2005 model year Santa Fe vehicles manufactured between August 10, 2004 and November 5, 2004.

573.6(c)(6)

NHTSA Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance testing of a 2005 model year Hyundai Santa Fe demonstrated the potential for misclassification of a 6 year old child as an adult

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when seated in a position described by S22.2.2.4 as sitting on the edge, spine vertical, hands by the sides.

Hyundai Motor Company believes that the 2005 model year Santa Fe fully complies with the requirements of FMVSS 208, including those requirements related to airbag suppression. However, NHTSA's testing has indicated that the margin of compliance with the requirements of S22.2.2.4 may not be sufficient to prevent the possibility for misclassification for some children during some seatings in tests for compliance with S22.2.2.4. As Hyundai has chosen to meet the requirements of S22.2.2.4 through the use of humans rather than dummies, and to address NHTSA's test results, Hyundai has decided to make available an increased margin of compliance to better accommodate variations in human physical characteristics and seating positions.

Therefore, Hyundai Motor Company has decided to conduct a recall in the United States to reprogram the OCS Electronic Control Unit (ECU) to replace the original algorithm with an algorithm that provides an increased margin of compliance with the requirements of S22.2.2.4 for 2005 model year Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles produced beginning August 10, 2004 through November 5, 2004.

Hyundai Motor Company incorporated a running change in production on November 5, 2004 to install a new OCS ECU algorithm that provides an increased classification performance margin for the 6 year old in various seating positions beyond those required by FMVSS 208. This algorithm also provides an increased classification performance margin for the 6 Year Old S22.2.2.4 position, sitting on the edge, spine vertical, hands by the sides.

In September 2005, Hyundai Motor Company provided notice to the United States distributor of Hyundai automobiles that it intended to conduct a recall to resolve this matter. 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.

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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 OCS ECU to replace the original algorithm with an updated version that provides more margin for compliance with respect to S22.2.2.4.

Hyundai anticipates the recall owner notification will be completed in one mailing during December 2005. Hyundai anticipates that dealers will be notified by December 1, 2005.

Reprogramming or other service to the OCS ECU 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 2005 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 OCS ECU 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.



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573.6(c)(11)

Hyundai has assigned "Campaign 074" as the designation for the campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Babcock".

Robert Babcock
Manager, Certification and
Compliance Issues

Attachments: 1

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DRAFT MOTOR VEHICLE RECALL

Dear 2005 Santa Fe 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 to conduct a motor vehicle safety recall of certain model year 2005 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles that were produced during the period beginning on August 10, 2004 through November 5, 2004.

WARNING: Hyundai recommends that children must always be seated in the rear seat, properly wearing the seat belt, and Child Restraint Seats (CRS) must always be properly installed in the rear seat. Children must never be seated in the front seat and Child Restraint Seats must never be installed in the front seat. Should an accident occur and cause the right front airbags to inflate, it could cause severe injury or death for a child seated in the front seat or an infant or child seated in a CRS.

What is the problem?

- In certain situations, the Occupant Classification System (OCS) installed in the right front seat of your vehicle may misclassify certain small children seated on the front edge of the seat as an adult. (Note: intended range of recognition as certain small children - height range of 45 to 49 inches and weight range of 46.5 to 56.5 pounds)

The possibility of misclassification of certain small children as an adult may allow the right front airbag to deploy in a frontal collision accident or the side impact airbag to deploy in a side collision accident.

When the right front passenger airbags are activated (may inflate in an accident) the "PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF" light on the instrument panel is not illuminated. When a CRS or small child occupies the right front seat, the "PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF" light on the instrument panel must always be illuminated, indicating that the right front passenger airbags are disabled (may not inflate in an accident).

What will Hyundai do?

- To ensure that your vehicle's OCS will properly classify certain small children when seated on the front edge of the seat and will disable the right front airbags, 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 your vehicle's OCS Electronic Control Unit (ECU) to provide an increased margin for recognition of certain small children. 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.

DRAFT MOTOR VEHICLE RECALL

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