



Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc.

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KIA MOTORS

October 4, 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

05V-463
(6 pages)
OFFICE OF DEFECTS INVESTIGATION
2005 OCT - 5 A 10:01
RECEIVED
NVS-210

Re: Recall Campaign
2002-2004 MY Kia Sedona Fire Originating near Instrument Panel (See PE05-035)

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-Kia America Technical Center, Inc.

573.6(C)(2)

Identification of Vehicle, Make, Model Year and Manufacturing Date:	All model year 2002 and 2003 Kia Sedona EX vehicles and model year 2004 Kia Sedona EX vehicles produced through December 1, 2003 with the front driver and passenger power seats feature.
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573.6(C)(3)

Total Number of Vehicles	Approximately 74,276 vehicles. These include approximately 31,598 2002, 32,268 2003, and 10,410 2004 model year Kia Sedona EX 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 installation defect potentially exists in all vehicles identified in (C)(3) but the actual presence of a defect cannot be identified without an inspection.
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573.6(C)(5)

Description of the Defect:

During assembly by the seat supplier the wiring underneath the front seat of Sedona models equipped with power seats could be misrouted, allowing the wire to be pinched by metal seat components. Eventually, the metal components could cause a short circuit in the wiring. As a result, electrical resistance will trip a circuit breaker diode in the fuse junction box. After the diode cools down, it will reset and recycle through this process repeatedly. Although Kia Motors Corporation (“KMC”) has been unable to duplicate this in testing, it is believed that on rare occasions the diode will continue to build up heat instead of cooling down, which can result in a fire in another component in the junction box area.

573.6(C)(6)

Basis for Defect Determination

In 2004, Kia Motors America, Inc. (“KMA”) advised KMC that they had reports of under dashboard fires in a few 2003 Sedonas. KMC investigated the issue and determined that they had no reports of similar fires in the Korean domestic market or elsewhere in the world. No trend was identified.

Based on further fire claims from KMA in late 2004, KMC organized an investigation team in January 2005 to evaluate such fire reports. Engineers from KMC and various of its vendors began working on the issue and then traveled to the U.S. to inspect actual fire vehicles where they were assisted by internal KMA technical staff and outside consultants. A fire location was identified in the fuse/junction box area of certain Sedona vehicles. Evidence of shorting in the electrical wiring under the front seats was also noted. This was consistent with the fires apparently starting in the upper part of the fuse/junction box where the circuit breaker diode related to the power seats in the EX model is located.

During this time, KMC also found incidents of damaged circuit breakers. It was determined that the damage was caused by technicians trying to

pull the circuit breaker out of the junction box during service.

At the end of this investigation round in approximately late March, Kia reached a preliminary conclusion that the likely cause of fires was the disruption of wiring insulation under Sedona EX power seats.

KMC and its vendors then commenced a testing program to evaluate this theory. Such testing has not duplicated this situation. Specifically, when subjected to a forced shorting situation, the circuit breaker diodes tested have properly cycled without creating heat sufficient to cause a fire.

Since the commencement of this PE investigation, KMA has identified other vehicles to inspect, both on its own and with the assistance of ODI, and has concluded that there is now sufficient evidence to make a determination that this defect exists although it cannot be confirmed with testing.

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 inspect and confirm routing of wires. In addition, the dealer will install protective seaming welts to preclude the possibility of underseat wires pinching for any reason. Vehicles manufactured beginning on December 2, 2003 already have such protection.

As a separate matter, in order to avoid damage to the circuit breaker during the technicians normal service, the dealers will at the same time apply a label to the fuse junction box instructing technicians not to attempt to remove the circuit breaker diodes, which cannot be serviced, but can be damaged by removal attempts.

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 October 28, 2005. The estimated date of notification to owners is November 18, 2005.

573.6(C)(11)

Notices

A draft of the owner notification letter will be submitted contemporaneously with this notice. A Technical Service Bulletin will be provided to NHTSA in the near future.

573.6(C)(12)

Manufacturer's Campaign Number SC054
If Different From Identification
Number Assigned by NHTSA

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

Very truly yours,



Alfred E. Gloddeck
Senior Manager—Regulation &
Certification Department

cc: Thomas Z. Cooper, Chief
 Vehicle Control Division

SAFETY RECALL NOTICE

November XX, 2005

Dear Kia Sedona 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 with the front driver and passenger power seats feature in certain 2002 - 2004MY Sedona EX vehicles.

What is the problem?

Kia has determined that the wiring under the front seats of some Sedona EX vehicles equipped with power seats could be misrouted, allowing contact with metal seat components. This contact could eventually result in a short circuit condition that may result in a fire in the junction box area of the vehicle.

What will Kia do?

- Kia will inspect and re-route the wires under the power seats, if necessary, as well as install protective seaming welts around those wires to better insulate them.

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 wiring in your vehicle is covered by Kia's 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 or mail your receipts with a cover letter directly to Kia for review and consideration at the following address:

Consumer Assistance Center
Kia Motors America, Inc.
P.O. Box 52410
Irvine, CA 92619-2410
800.333.4Kia (4542)

What should you do?

- Please call your Kia dealer to schedule a service appointment. Scheduling a service appointment in advance helps to ensure the parts necessary to repair your vehicle are available and at the dealership and minimize inconvenience to you. 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 submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 40990; or call the toll free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

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