

July 15, 2009

## **IMPORTANT: THIS IS A SECOND NOTICE**

**THIS NOTICE IS A FOLLOW-UP TO AN EARLIER COMMUNICATION ISSUED ON OCTOBER 6, 2006 WHICH NOTIFIED ALL AFFECTED REGISTERED KIA RIO OWNERS OF A SAFETY RECALL CAMPAIGN. OUR RECORDS INDICATE THAT YOU ARE AN OWNER OF THIS VEHICLE AND THAT IT HAS NOT YET BEEN REMEDIED.**

**KIA URGES YOU TO CONTACT A KIA DEALERSHIP TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO HAVE THESE REAR OUTBOARD SEATBELT ASSEMBLIES REPLACED.**

### **SAFETY RECALL NOTICE**

Dear Kia Rio Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act and in the interest of the safety of child occupants of your vehicle. Kia Motors America, Inc. has decided that certain 2003 Rio 4-door model vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, "Occupant Crash Protection." Kia is therefore conducting a recall to correct this noncompliance.

#### **What is the problem?**

- The seatbelts in your vehicle are designed to lock up when your Rio experiences decelerations which might be related to an accident. However, your Rio's rear outboard seats are also equipped with an Automatic Locking Retractor (ALR) to lock a child seat in place at all times and not just during decelerations. If a child seat is not properly secured, there is an increased risk of injury to the seat occupant in the event of a crash. The ALRs in the affected 2003 Kia Rio vehicles may disengage during installation when used with certain child seats. Sufficient webbing can be retracted into the spool to disengage the ALR function when the belt is positioned behind the child seat, but not if it is placed around the seat. As a result, certain child seats may not be tightly secured at all times in the manner required by Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 208.

#### **Is there a problem if you are using a child seat that uses lower anchors and an upper tether strap?**

- No. Any child seat held in place with lower anchors and an upper tether strap is always held securely in place.

#### **Can I ignore this recall if I don't use a child seat in my car?**

- It is important to have this recall conducted regardless of any current use or non-use of child seats in your vehicle to ensure your vehicle is safe for use by others who may ride in your car and for use by future owners.

**What can you do to operate your vehicle more safely before the recall repair is completed?**

- If your child seat is equipped with lower seat latches and an upper tether strap, attach the lower latches to the lower anchors and the tether strap to the tether anchor to secure your child seat in either of the rear outboard seats.
- If your child seat does not have lower latches, place the child seat in the rear **center** seat and secure it by using the vehicle's lap belt pursuant to the child seat manufacturer's instructions. Once you have installed your child seat in the center seat, pull the seatbelt webbing to ensure that the child seat is locked tightly in place.
- If your child seat does not have lower latches but has a tether, Kia recommends that you also attach the tether and that you continue to use the tether even after the recall repair has been completed.

**What will Kia do?**

- Kia will replace both rear outboard seatbelt assemblies at no cost to you, when you take your vehicle to your Kia dealership.

**What if you have already paid to have this situation corrected?**

If you have incurred expense to remedy this problem 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 limited 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:

Consumer Assistance Center  
Kia Motors America, Inc.  
P.O. Box 52410  
Irvine, CA 92619-2410  
1-800-333-4KIA (4542)

**What should you do?**

- Please call your Kia dealer to schedule a service appointment. 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 wish to write to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 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>.*

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