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DEFECTS INVESTIGATION RECALL MGMT DIV.



April 13, 2007

## 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 07V-161 (3 pages)

Re: <u>Recall Campaign</u> 2002MY Kia Sportage Cooling Fan

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: Importer: Agent Designated by Manufacturer:

#### 573.6(C)(2)

Identification of Vehicle, Make, Model Year and Manufacturing Date:

#### 573.6(C)(3)

Total Number of Vehicles:

Kia Motors Corp. Kia Motors America, Inc. Robert Babcock Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc

The 2002 model year Kia Sportage vehicles produced from May 15, 2001 through October 2, 2002.

Approximately 35,090 vehicles are subject to the recall. There are 46,887 Kia vehicles in the range specified in (C)(2), of which 11,797 have had the cooling fan replaced under warranty as of April 10,2007. The remaining 35,090 vehicles in this range are subject to this recall.

## HYUNDRI·KIA MOTORS Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center Inc. 6800 Geddes Road, Superior Township, MI 48198

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# 573.6(C)(4)

Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect:

#### 573.6(C)(5)

Description of the Defect:

This defect potentially exists in all unrepaired vehicles identified in (C)(2).

The heat generated by the engine causes repeated bending deformation of the polypropylene cooling fan including its retaining ring, which stresses the polypropylene, initiating cracking of the fan. The centrifugal forces generated by the rotation of the blades can cause the cracks to propagate until complete separation occurs. Separation can create a risk of personal injury.

### 573.6(C)(7)

Basis for Defect Determination

Kia became aware of blade separations and initiated a parts change in August 2003. Kia's evaluation of those separation incidents and the structure of the engine compartment indicated that the blades were retained within the confining structures surrounding the fan, and did not create a risk of personal injury.

As a result of NHTSA's PE 06-042, Kia collected and reviewed information on the history of the cooling fan, along with warranty claims and customer complaint information. Information was provided to NHTSA on December 1 and 22, 2006. Further discussions and evaluations occurred between Kia and NHTSA during February and March 2007. On April 6, Kia determined that although no personal injuries had occurred, there was sufficient information to conclude that blade separation could cause personal injury in spite of the confining engine structures.

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## 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. At that time, the dealer will replace the engine cooling fan blade.

### 573.6(C)(8)(ii)

Estimated Date for Notification of Defect to Owners and Dealers

573.6(C)(11)

Notices

The estimated date of notification to dealers is late May 2007. The estimated date of notification to owners is early June 2007.

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 If Different From Identification Number Assigned by NHTSA

SC070

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

Very truly yours,

Robert Babrock

Robert Babcock Senior Manager, Regulation and Certification Department

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