



July 22, 2008

Mr. Daniel Smith  
Associate Administrator for Enforcement  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Amended Defect Information Report, NHTSA Campaign Number 08E-016

Dear Mr. Smith:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Hyundai America Technical Center is submitting information concerning an amendment to a Defect Information Report submitted to NHTSA for Campaign 08E-016 on January 31, 2008. There are no changes to the information provided on January 31, 2008 under sections 573.6(c)(1), 573.6(c)(2), 573.6(c)(3), 573.6(c)(4), and 573.6(c)(12). Specific information as required by Section 573.6 is as follows:

573.6(c)(5)

**Original information:** The accessory trailer hitch wiring harness converter module is mounted to the top surface of the rear bumper reinforcement. The wiring harness supplier to Thule Towing Systems has identified that high current leakage or a short circuit of capacitor C1 could cause heat related damage to the wiring harness converter module. Excessive heat may cause damage to the rear bumper area and may potentially result in a fire.

**Supplemental information:** Thule Towing Systems has identified heat related damage to the trailer hitch wiring harness converter module related to ineffective sealing of the converter module housing against moisture contamination. Some circuit board components may not have been thoroughly sealed to prevent moisture contact. The moisture may result in circuit board corrosion that may bridge the input voltage circuit trace and the ground circuit trace. This short circuit causes the overheating and damage to the converter module.

573.6(c)(6)

**Original information:** In September 2007, Hyundai Motor America was informed that a 2007 model year Santa Fe equipped with a dealer-installed trailer hitch experienced fire damage, which reportedly appeared to be related to the tow package wiring. In November, 2007, a Hyundai Motor America representative inspected another 2007 Santa Fe that experienced melting of the dealer-installed

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vehicle limited warranty, or 1 year or 12,000 miles for dealer installed trailer hitches. As no owners of these 2007 and 2008 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.

Supplemental information: Hyundai Motor America did not resume distribution of vehicles equipped with distributor-installed trailer hitches or additional trailer hitch kits for dealer installation after these activities ceased on January 25, 2008.

Thule Towing Systems is developing new hitch wiring harnesses for Santa Fe and Veracruz models that will contain redesigned circuit boards within the converter modules with increased separation between the input voltage circuit trace and the ground circuit trace. The new converter modules will also be thoroughly sealed to prevent moisture intrusion. Finally, the new wiring harnesses will be designed to relocate the converter module to the inside of the vehicle cargo compartment area to resolve any potential for contamination of the converter module by moisture.

Hyundai anticipates that new components to repair customer vehicles will be available in August, 2008. All potentially affected owners will be notified in one mailing.

Since distribution of the trailer hitch kits ceased on January 25, 2008, there has been no change in the affected quantity of trailer hitch wiring harnesses. However, as time has passed since the initial owner notification, in an effort to ensure that all potential owners of these components are notified of the need to have this recall repair performed, Hyundai will notify all registered owners of 2007 and 2008 model year Santa Fe and Veracruz vehicles that were distributed by Hyundai Motor America prior to January 25, 2008.

573.6(c)(10)

Supplemental information: The Technical Service Bulletin will be provided to NHTSA when available. Other relevant communications will also be forwarded when they are available.

573.6(c)(11)

Supplemental information: A draft of the owner notification letter is attached. Hyundai will issue this letter, after NHTSA's approval, when parts have become available to perform the repair. Hyundai will provide additional information to NHTSA, including a Technical Service Bulletin and other dealer communications when they have become available.

Sincerely,



Robert Babcock  
Senior Manager, Regulation and Certification Department

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trailer hitch wiring harness converter module. In late December, 2007, a 2008 model year Santa Fe equipped with a distributor-installed trailer hitch experienced fire damage prior to transportation to a dealer. In January, 2008, Hyundai Motor America received a letter from an insurance company reporting fire damage to a 2007 model year Santa Fe equipped with a dealer-installed trailer hitch, indicating that the damage resulted from a failed wiring harness control module.

Thule Towing Systems provided their wiring harness supplier with a sample component that was removed from the December incident vehicle. In late January, 2008, the supplier determined that failure of the C1 capacitor was the cause of the heat damage, allowing the supplier to develop a solution to be used as a production change and a field repair.

These events and the supplier's analysis led Hyundai to determine that a safety related defect exists in the accessory trailer hitch wiring harness converter module. Hyundai is not aware of any injuries related to the trailer hitch wiring harness converter modules identified above in 573.6(c)(2).

Supplemental information: Hyundai Motor America was informed by a dealer that a replacement trailer hitch wiring harness converter module that had been installed as a recall campaign repair had experienced heat related damage. The vehicle and component were inspected by Thule Towing Systems and Hyundai Motor America. It was determined that the converter module had been improperly mounted in a position on the back side of the bumper fascia that is exposed to road splash, instead of in the correct location on the top surface of the bumper reinforcement, which provides protection against the environment.

Following the inspection of the converter module from this vehicle, additional original configuration trailer hitch wiring harness converter modules that had been removed from vehicles during the recall campaign were also inspected.

Based upon these inspections, Thule Towing Systems identified that heat related damage was related to ineffective sealing of the converter module against moisture contamination.

The damaged recall campaign repair component and the supplier's analysis of components that had been in field use has led Hyundai to determine that a safety related defect exists in the accessory trailer hitch wiring harness converter module that has been installed as a recall repair component. Hyundai is not aware of any injuries related to the trailer hitch wiring harness converter modules.

### 573.6(c)(8)

Original information: Hyundai Motor America ceased distribution of the affected parts and vehicles containing the affected parts on January 25, 2008. Hyundai dealers will be advised not to sell these parts and to return them to Hyundai Motor America for a full refund. Hyundai Motor America will replace the trailer hitch wiring harnesses with those containing modified converter modules prior to being returned to the Hyundai Motor America parts inventory.

Hyundai anticipates that owners will be notified in one mailing during February, 2008, after a sufficient quantity of trailer hitch wiring harnesses containing the changed converter modules have become available to allow replacements to begin.

Repair or other service to the trailer hitch wiring harness converter module of all vehicles affected by this recall would have been covered for 5 years or 60,000 miles under Hyundai's new