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2008 APRIL 10 - 10:30 AM  
OFFICE OF RECALL  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

April 1, 2008

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

08V-161  
(5 Pages)

RE: Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

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)

Model year 2006 through 2008 Hyundai Sonata vehicles produced beginning March 1, 2005 through the end of 2008 model year production on January 11, 2008.

573.6(c)(3)

Approximately 393,714 model year 2006 through 2008 Hyundai Sonata vehicles are potentially affected.

573.6(c)(4)

All of the model year 2006 through 2008 Hyundai Sonata vehicles may potentially be affected.

**Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center Inc.**  
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## Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc

### 573.6(c)(5)

2006 through 2008 model year Hyundai Sonata vehicles are equipped with an Occupant Classification System (OCS) that meets the passenger advanced airbag suppression and activation requirements of FMVSS 208. Some owners of these vehicles have experienced incorrect recognition of an adult occupant seated in the front passenger seat. In these instances the OCS did not recognize the presence of a small stature adult and illuminated the "PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF" lamp and deactivated the passenger airbag. The possibility of misclassification of a small stature adult as a child in the right front passenger seat may cause the right front airbag to not deploy in an accident that merits airbag deployment and may result in injury to the right front occupant.

This condition potentially affects all 2006 through 2008 model year Sonata vehicles.

### 573.6(c)(6)

Hyundai Motor Company became aware of the possibility of misclassification of some small stature adults as a result of customer contacts to Hyundai dealers because the "PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF" lamp remained illuminated with a small stature adult passenger seated in the right front seat. To provide satisfaction for the owners of vehicles that have experienced this condition, Hyundai Motor Company has developed a procedure to reprogram the OCS to provide more margin of recognition of small statured adults when seated in the right front passenger seat.

Although Hyundai Motor Company does not consider this condition to be a safety related defect, it has decided to conduct a recall in the United States to help contact and satisfy customers who may experience an occupant recognition issue in the right front passenger seat. The recall procedure will allow Hyundai to reach and gain the attention of as many owners as possible to provide them with the ability to have their seats evaluated and, if necessary, reprogrammed. The recall procedure will involve inspecting the right front seat cushion assembly OCS for proper operation and reprogramming the OCS to provide a greater margin of recognition of right front seated adults, if necessary.

The reprogramming procedure provides a greater margin of recognition of small stature adults. The revised OCS program also complies with all the performance requirements of FMVSS 208. Hyundai does not believe that every 2006-2008 Sonata's OCS should be reprogrammed. This action should only be undertaken to satisfy owners who have had right front seat passengers experience the "PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF" lamp remaining illuminated with an adult passenger seated.

In late March 2008, 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 injuries related to this condition.

### 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 if they have experienced OCS operation issues. Dealers will verify that the OCS does not recognize a properly seated adult occupant. After verification, the Hyundai dealer will remove the right front seat cushion assembly and will ship it to an evaluation and repair facility. The facility will evaluate and repair or reprogram the seat cushion and OCS as necessary.

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Hyundai anticipates that dealers will be notified by the third week of May, 2008 and that owners will be notified in sixteen mailings beginning on approximately May 26, 2008, after the evaluation and repair facilities have become operational.

Repair or other service to the airbag systems 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 2006 through 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.

573.6(c)(10)

The Technical Service Bulletin containing the service procedure for evaluating the occupant recognition capabilities of the OCS will be provided to NHTSA when available. Other relevant communications will also be forwarded when they are available.

573.6(c)(11)

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached.

573.6(c)(12)

Hyundai has assigned "Campaign 083" as the designation for the campaign.

Sincerely,



Robert Babcock  
Senior Manager, Regulation and Certification Department

Attachments: 1

# *DRAFT* MOTOR VEHICLE RECALL

Dear 2006, 2007 or 2008 Sonata 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 that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain model year 2006, 2007, and 2008 Hyundai Sonata vehicles.

## **What is the problem?**

- Your Sonata is equipped with an advanced air bag system meeting all federal regulations, which features an Occupant Classification System (OCS) in the right front seat. The purpose of the OCS is to disable the right passenger seat front air bag when it detects the presence of a child restraint system or small child in the right front seat. The right front air bag is disabled to prevent injuries to a child that may result from right front air bag inflation during a crash.

The OCS installed in the right front seat of your vehicle may misclassify a small stature adult as a child. This would cause the "PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF" lamp to illuminate and would deactivate the passenger front air bag. Misclassification of a small stature adult as a child in the right front passenger seat may cause the right front air bag to not inflate in an accident that merits air bag deployment and may result in injury to the right front occupant.

## **What will Hyundai do?**

- If your vehicle's "PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF" lamp illuminates while the right front seat is occupied by an adult or if your vehicle's "AIR BAG" warning lamp is illuminated, we are asking you to schedule an appointment as soon as possible to take your vehicle to your Hyundai dealer. The Hyundai dealer will check your vehicle to confirm that the OCS is not properly recognizing an adult passenger. After confirmation, the Hyundai dealer will remove the right front seat cushion assembly and send it to an evaluation and repair station, which will inspect the right front seat cushion assembly OCS for proper operation and then will reprogram the OCS, if necessary, to provide a greater margin of recognition for adults seated in the right front seat. 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. Hyundai will provide you with a vehicle at no cost for your use while your vehicle is being serviced.

This reprogramming is not recommended for most vehicles and is not an upgrade or enhancement. The reprogramming is only intended to improve the capability of the OCS to recognize a small segment of adult seated passengers.

## *DRAFT* MOTOR VEHICLE RECALL

### What should you do?

- You should make sure that adult passengers seated in the right front seat always sit upright with the seatback in an upright position, centered on the seat cushion, with the seat belt on and legs comfortably extended. This will help the OCS to recognize the seated occupant as an adult.

If your vehicle's "PASSENGER AIR BAG OFF" lamp illuminates while the right front seat is occupied by an adult or if your vehicle's "AIR BAG" warning lamp is illuminated, 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, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, 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>.

**WARNING:** Hyundai recommends that Child Restraint Seats (CRS) must always be properly installed in the rear seat. Child restraint seats must never be installed in the front seat. Hyundai also recommends that all children under the age of thirteen always ride only in the rear seat, properly wearing their seat belts. Should an accident occur and cause the right front air bags to inflate, it could cause severe injury or death for an infant or child seated in a CRS or for a child seated in the right front seat.

We urge your prompt attention to this important safety matter.

Hyundai Motor America