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10V-070
(3 pages)



February 24, 2010

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



RE: Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Smith:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Hyundai America Technical Center 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)

Certain model year 2011 Hyundai Sonata vehicles produced beginning December 11, 2009 through February 15, 2010 are affected.

573.6(c)(3)

Hyundai is currently determining the number of model year 2011 Hyundai Sonata vehicles produced beginning December 11, 2009 through February 15, 2010 that are affected.

573.6(c)(4)

When Hyundai has completed its analysis, all of the vehicles that will be identified in response to 573.6(c)(2) are potentially affected.

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HATCI is an authorized representative of both Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Motors Corporation; which are separate and distinct automotive manufacturers.

Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc

573.6(c)(5)

The front door latches incorporate a convenience feature that allows a locked door latch to be unlocked and opened by pulling the inside door release handle without first unlocking the door with the inside door lock switch. The two rear doors do not incorporate this feature. If a front inside door lock switch is held in the locked position while the inside door handle is pulled to open the door, the door latch inside handle lever may become mispositioned relative to the door latch master link. If this occurs, the inside door handle will not return to its normal, stowed position and the door latch will remain in the unlatched position when attempting to close the door.

Hyundai believes that the unlatched condition will easily be recognized by a driver or passenger as they attempt to close the door. When this condition occurs, the "Door Open" pictogram warning lamp in the instrument cluster also will illuminate. However, if the driver or front seat passenger does not notice that a front door is unlatched or does not notice that the "Door Open" pictogram warning lamp in the instrument cluster is illuminated, the door may open while the vehicle is being driven. Driving a vehicle with the door unlatched could result in increased risk of injury to an unbelted driver or passenger.

573.6(c)(6)

In February, 2010, Hyundai learned that one vehicle's right front door opened. The latch was found to remain in the open position. Also in February, Hyundai learned of a vehicle's driver's door that would not close. The latch was found to remain in the open position.

Production running change revisions have been made to the front door latches to more than double the effort required to cause the door latch inside handle lever to become mispositioned relative to the door latch master link. Hyundai is currently determining the number of vehicles that may not have received the revised door latches.

Hyundai is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to the operation of the door latches in any vehicles identified above in 573.6(c)(2).

573.6(c)(8)

Hyundai Motor America will notify all owners of the Hyundai vehicles described in 573.6(c)(2) above to return their vehicles to their Hyundai dealers, who will inspect and, if necessary, replace the affected left and/or right front door latches.

Hyundai anticipates that owners will begin to be notified by mail during March, 2010 after NHTSA has approved the owner notification letter.

Replacing the front door latches 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 owners of these vehicles would not have incurred expenses for the 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.

Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc

573.6(c)(10)

The Technical Service Bulletin containing the service procedure for inspecting the lot numbers of front door latches and replacing the front door latches, when necessary, 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 096" as the designation for this campaign.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Babcock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

Robert Babcock
Senior Manager, Regulation and Certification Department

Attachment