



April 25, 2011

Mr. Frank S. Borris, Director
Office of Defects Investigation
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, W45-302
Washington, DC 20590

11V-258
(3 Pages)

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Re: Voluntary Safety Recall Campaign
2011 MY Kia Sorento Intermediate Driveshaft (See Opening Resume for PE11-010)

Dear Mr. Borris:

The following information is submitted in accordance with Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

573.6(C)(1)

Manufacturer:	Kia Motors Corp.
Importer:	Kia Motors America, Inc.
Agent Designated by Manufacturer:	Robert Babcock Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc

573.6(C)(2)

Identification of Vehicle, Make, Model Year and Manufacturing Date:	The 2011 MY Kia Sorento 2WD vehicles equipped with automatic transmissions and 2.4L engines produced the start of production through 5/22/2010.
---	---

573.6(C)(3)

Total Number of Vehicles	Approximately 12,690 2WD 2.4L automatic transmission vehicles will be subject to this recall.
--------------------------	---

Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center Inc.
6800 Geddes Road, Superior Township, MI 48198
TEL: 734-337-9499 FAX: 734-483-5919
www.hatci.com

573.6(C)(4)

Percentage of Vehicles Estimated to Actually Contain the Defect:

This defect potentially exists in any of the vehicles identified in 573.6(C)(2) above.

573.6(C)(5)

Description of the Defect:

The external shape of the engine block can prevent the intermediate shaft bearing bracket from mating evenly with the engine block. This can cause a misalignment of the intermediate shaft with the right side output gear. Continuing to drive the vehicle in this condition leads to the development of a whirring/whining noise and can eventually cause damage to the automatic transmission resulting in a loss of motive power, thus increasing the risk of a crash. The steering and braking systems remain fully functional.

573.6(C)(6)

Basis for Defect Determination:

In May 2010, Kia identified noise complaints due to the misalignment of the intermediate shaft. In June 2010, KMA issued a service campaign (SC082) to check and correct the right side intermediate shaft alignment and to add lubricant to the shaft.

In late 2010, KMA became aware that 2WD Kia Sorento automatic transmission vehicles equipped with 2.4L engines continued to experience noise and wear from the intermediate shaft even after SC082 had been performed. In March 2011, Kia decided to conduct an amended service campaign (SC082A) and issued a notice to the field on April 1, 2011 to replace the right side output gear and intermediate shaft in 2WD vehicles.

On April 7, 2011, ODI issued an Opening Resume regarding complaints of loss of motive power due to a sudden failure of the transmission intermediate driveshaft. That Resume identified 4 certain and 5 potential VOQs applicable to this issue. Almost all of these had been received by NHTSA between late February and the end of March 2011. Kia's evaluation determined that the nature of the customer's experience had changed, which was further reinforced when Kia identified three (3) additional VOQs on the NHTSA website on April 14, 2011.

Kia now believes that the effect of the misalignment of the intermediate shaft can include loss of power and, if left unresolved, can increase the risk of a vehicle crash. As a result, Kia decided to conduct a recall on April 19, 2011.

573.6(C)(8)(i)

Program to Remedy Defect:

All owners of vehicles identified in (C)(3) who have not yet had their right side output gear and intermediate shaft replaced will be notified by first class mail and instructed to bring their vehicles to a Kia dealer to have the right side output gear and intermediate shaft replaced.

573.6(C)(8)(ii)

Estimated Date for Notification of Defect to Owners and Dealers

The estimated date of notification to dealers is April 28, 2011. The estimated date of notification to owners will be sometime in the first week of May 2011.

573.6(C)(11)

Notices

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached. The Technical Service Bulletin SC089 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 SC089

Sincerely,



Robert Babcock
Senior Manager,
Regulation and Certification Department