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(3 pages)



March 29, 2013

Ms. Nancy Lewis
Associate Administrator for Enforcement
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Defect Information Report

Dear Ms. Lewis:

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

Distributor - Hyundai de Puerto Rico

573.6(c)(2)

Certain 2011 through 2013 model year Hyundai Elantra vehicles manufactured in Korea for sale in the United States and Puerto Rico are affected.

573.6(c)(3)

Approximately 190,000 2011-2013 model year Hyundai Elantra vehicles are affected in the United States. Approximately 3,875 vehicles are affected in Puerto Rico.

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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.

573.6(c)(4)

All of the vehicles identified above in 573.6(c)(2) are potentially affected.

573.6(c)(5)

An investigation by Hyundai Motor Company indicates that during the deployment of a side curtain airbag, a support bracket attached to the headliner can become displaced if the support bracket has been previously dislodged. This condition may pose a risk of injury to the vehicle occupant if contact is made between the occupant and the headliner support bracket during a side impact collision.

573.6(c)(6)

On May 07, 2012 NHTSA received a Vehicle Owner's Questionnaire alleging injury resulting from a side curtain airbag deployment during a collision. Hyundai was contacted by NHTSA and subsequently conducted a joint inspection of the subject vehicle with a representative from NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation on May 23, 2012. The inspection revealed a support bracket for the headliner had become displaced during the curtain airbag deployment. This, combined with the occupant's kinematics during the collision, resulted in a laceration to the driver's left ear cartilage. NHTSA opened a Preliminary Evaluation in June 2012.

During the course of the PE, Hyundai did not identify any additional field occurrences of a displaced headliner support bracket or any allegations of injury resulting from a side curtain airbag deployment. No anomalies were noted in a review of development and certification testing records. Hyundai conducted a series of side curtain airbag deployment tests and concluded at that time that the most likely cause of the displaced bracket was improper adhesion application to the support bracket in that particular vehicle. A review of component and vehicle assembly procedures found them to be current and robust.

NHTSA opened EA12-008 in September of 2012. During the EA, two vehicles in salvage yards were identified with side curtain airbag deployments and what appeared to be dislodged metal support brackets. No injuries were associated with these vehicles.

Hyundai conducted numerous additional deployment tests to evaluate various bracket adhesion and temperature conditions. Hyundai met with ODI on March 6, 2013, to provide an update and analysis with regard to that testing. Hyundai's investigation found the potential for a side curtain airbag to interact with and to displace the bracket depended on a previous partial dislodgment of the bracket. The only incidents identified of dislodged brackets were in the United States, and a search of almost 200 salvage yards in Korea found no similar vehicles. Each of the three vehicles in the United States were equipped with port-installed electronic "auto-dimming" rear view mirrors that are exclusive to the U.S. market. During the installation of the mirrors the technician could interact with the headliner in a manner that partially dislodges the bracket, allowing the side curtain airbag deployment subsequently to force the bracket to displace during the course of a collision. Further research and testing revealed that industrial manufacturing adhesive strips placed over the bracket prevent displacement of a dislodged bracket during side curtain airbag deployment.

To preclude this condition from occurring during a side curtain air bag deployment, Hyundai has decided to conduct a voluntary recall to install the industrial manufacturing adhesive strips to the headliner to further secure the bracket to the headliner on certain 2011-2013 Hyundai Elantra vehicles manufactured in Korea. These vehicles can be identified with a Vehicle Identification Number beginning with a "K." The recall will also include installing the industrial manufacturing adhesive strips to the service part headliner assemblies in U.S. inventory.

573.6(c)(8)

Hyundai Motor America and Hyundai de Puerto Rico 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 apply the industrial manufacturing adhesive strips to the vehicle's headliner.

Hyundai anticipates that owners will begin to be notified by mail during the second quarter of 2013 after NHTSA has approved the owner notification letter.

The headliner assembly for the 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.

573.6(c)(10)

A draft of the Technical Service Bulletin will be forwarded when available.

A draft copy of the dealer communication will be forwarded when available.

573.6(c)(11)

A draft of the owner notification letter will be forwarded when available.

573.6(c)(12)

Hyundai has assigned "Campaign 109" as the designation for the campaign.

Sincerely,



Robert Babcock
Director, HATCI Certification and Compliance Affairs