

2014MY FORTE COOLING FAN RESISTOR Chronology re Basis of Defect Determination 573.6(c)(6)

January 10, 2014	KMC receives a report of cooling fan resistor thermal damage from Kia Russia.
January 28, 2014	KMC changes the production resistor specifications.
February 3, 2014	KMC requests that KMA monitor U.S. market vehicles for cooling fan thermal issues.
February 6, 2014	One dealer contacts KMA regarding a dealer owned 2014MY Forte that, after being moved, later had smoke coming from its engine. The smoke subsequently became an engine fire.
March 4, 2014	KMA receives customer complaint of smoke coming out of engine compartment while driving and subsequent engine fire. Customer pulled into a gas station for assistance.
March 11, 2014	KMC commences testing of resistor for thermal damage.
March 11, 2014	KMA conducts vehicle inspection of the customer vehicle and identifies possible cooling fan resistor issue.
March 27, 2014	KMA engineers inspect the dealer vehicle. Potential cause determined to be cooling fan resistor.
April 17, 2014	KMC increases clearance between the cooling fan and shroud and implements into production in order to minimize possibility of fan blade interference.
April 30, 2014	KMC completes resistor testing for thermal damage and concludes it is unable to duplicate fire condition.
May 7 – May 9, 2014	KMC engineer comes to U.S. to conduct further inspection of the dealer vehicle.
June-December, 2014	KMC continues to monitor other markets for condition. KMC instructs KMA to keep monitoring Forte vehicles. No new cases identified by KMA.
January 9, 2015	Comprehensive review fails to identify defect trend. Supports conclusion that some random cooling fan high heat events occurred, ranging from non-ignition cooling fan “burn out” to possible unique fires. KMC concludes that it cannot rule out risk that overheating could ignite combustible materials, and decides to conduct safety recall. No warranty claims support a safety defect determination; 9 CA files are evaluated in determining that possible safety related cooling fan motor overheating might occur. No accidents or injuries reported.