

Hyundai Sonata Electronic Power Steering Chronology

Hyundai began production of the US market Sonata in December, 2009. The vehicles incorporated an electronic power steering (EPS) system to provide steering assist. The system utilizes a magnetic torque sensing device in the steering column as an input to the EPS control unit, and the control unit determines the level of steering assist required.

In March 2015, Hyundai began to investigate US manufactured Sonata electronic steering column warranty claims. The process of collecting incident steering columns from the field and shipping the parts to Korea for analysis by the supplier commenced. The status of the parts collection and analysis was reviewed monthly, and in September, 2015 and it was decided to increase the number of field parts included in the analysis by the supplier. In January, 2016, a review of the incident field parts was presented, and Hyundai initiated a review with the supplier to determine the reason(s) the malfunction occurred. The investigation revealed the manufacturing process for the printed circuit board (PCB) in the EPS Control Unit was modified in October, 2010 by revising the protective coating to the circuit board to help improve the PCB's resistance to potential environmental effects. Over time, damage to the circuit board could occur resulting in illumination of the EPS warning lamp in the instrument cluster accompanied by a loss of steering assist. In March 2016, an investigation task force from Korea studied customer vehicles in the United States exhibiting the loss of assist condition and collected data measurements of steering effort.

On March 24, 2016, based on the information presented to the Technical Committee, Hyundai decided to conduct a recall on the affected vehicles.

Hyundai has not identified any accidents or injuries related to this defect.