



U.S. Department of Transportation  
**National Highway Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

February 27, 2019

Mr. J.S. (Jurassic) Park  
VP/PL & Regulatory Compliance  
Kia Motors America  
111 Peters Canyon Road  
Irvine, CA 92606-1790

NEF-150JK  
19V-120

**Subject:** Overheated Catalytic Converter May Damage Engine

Dear Mr. Park:

This letter serves to acknowledge Kia Motors America's notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a safety recall which will be conducted pursuant to Federal law for the product(s) listed below. Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**

KIA/SOUL/2012-2016

**Mfr's Report Date:** February 22, 2019

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 19V-120

**Components:**

ENGINE

ENGINE AND ENGINE COOLING:EXHAUST SYSTEM:EMISSION CONTROL:CATALYTIC CONVERTOR

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 378,967

**Problem Description:**

Kia Motors America (Kia) is recalling certain 2012-2016 Kia Soul vehicles equipped with 1.6L Gasoline Direct Injection (GDI) engines. High exhaust gas temperatures may damage the catalytic converter, possibly resulting in abnormal engine combustion and damage to one or more of the engine's pistons and possible piston connecting rod failure.

**Consequence:**

Piston damage may result in an engine stall, increasing the risk of crash. A broken connecting rod may puncture the engine block allowing engine oil to escape. The leaking oil may contact the exhaust, increasing the risk of a fire.

**Remedy:**

Kia will notify owners, and dealers will upgrade the Catalytic Overheating Protection Engine Control Unit logic to prevent overheating of the catalytic converter. In addition, the catalytic converter will also be replaced if it has been damaged. Depending on the extent of any damage, the engine may also be replaced, free of charge. Owners may contact Kia customer service at 1-800-333-4542. Kia's number for this recall is SC176.

**Notes:**

Owners may also contact the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY 1-800-424-9153), or go to [www.safercar.gov](http://www.safercar.gov).

Please be reminded of the following requirements:

You are required to submit a draft owner notification letter to this office no less than five days prior to mailing it to the customers. Also, copies of all notices, bulletins, dealer notifications, and other communications that relate to this recall, including a copy of the final owner notification letter and any subsequent owner follow-up notification letter(s), are required to be submitted to this office no later than 5 days after they are originally sent (if they are sent to more than one manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or purchaser/owner).

As stated in Part 573.7, submission of the first of six consecutive quarterly status reports is required within one month after the close of the calendar quarter in which notification to purchasers occurs. Therefore, the first quarterly report will be due on, or before, 30 days after the close of the calendar quarter.

Your contact for this recall will be Jennifer Kruger who may be reached by phone at (202) 366-2461, or by email at [jennifer.kruger@dot.gov](mailto:jennifer.kruger@dot.gov). We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Kareem Habib  
Acting Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigations  
Enforcement