



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 2, 2020

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

NEF-150JK
20V-519

Subject: Hydraulic Electronic Control Unit May Short

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/OPTIMA/2013-2015
KIA/SORENTO/2014-2015

Mfr's Report Date: August 27, 2020

NHTSA Campaign Number: 20V-519

Components:

SERVICE BRAKES, HYDRAULIC:ANTILOCK/TRACTION CONTROL/ELECTRONIC LIMITED
SLIP:CONTROL UNIT/MODULE

Potential Number of Units Affected: 440,370

Problem Description:

Kia Motors America (Kia) is recalling certain 2013-2015 Optima and 2014-2015 Sorento vehicles. Brake fluid may leak inside the Hydraulic Electronic Control Unit (HECU), possibly resulting in an electrical short.

Consequence:

If the HECU short circuits, there is an increased risk of an engine compartment fire.

Remedy:

Kia will notify owners, and dealers will inspect the HECU for leaking brake fluid and replace the HECU if necessary, free of charge. The recall is expected to begin October 15, 2020. Owners may contact Kia customer service at 1-800-333-4542. Kia's number for this recall is SC197.

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.

Please ensure the following requirements are met:

Please confirm that these units are not supplied with electrical power when the vehicle is off, and that the fires can only occur while being driven.

Please provide information as to how a one time HECU inspection will resolve the potential of future leaking and corrosion that could result in a fire.

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. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Joshua Neff
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigations
Enforcement