



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

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 12, 2021

Mr. J.S. (Jurassic) Park
VP/ Chief Safety Officer
Kia Motors America
111 Peters Canyon Road
Irvine, CA 92606-1790

NEF-107JK
21V-622

Subject: Trunk Emergency Release May Fail/FMVSS 401

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/FORTE/2016-2018
KIA/RIO/2018-2019

Mfr's Report Date: August 9, 2021

NHTSA Campaign Number: 21V-622

Components:

LATCHES/LOCKS/LINKAGES:TRUNK LID:LATCH

Potential Number of Units Affected: 253,074

Problem Description:

Kia Motors America (Kia) is recalling certain 2016-2018 Forte, Forte Koup, and 2018-2019 Rio vehicles. The trunk latch may become damaged, preventing the opening of the trunk from the inside. As such, these vehicles fail to comply with the requirements of Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard number 401, "Internal Trunk Release."

Consequence:

A person inside the trunk compartment may become trapped, increasing their risk of injury.

Remedy:

Dealers will replace the trunk latch assembly, free of charge. Owner notification letters are expected to be mailed October 5, 2021. Owners may contact Kia customer service at 1-800-333-4542. Kia's number for this recall is SC216.

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.nhtsa.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).

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

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.

Kia Motors America's contact for this recall will be Jennifer Kruger who may be reached by email at jennifer.kruger@dot.gov. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Alex Ansley
Chief, Recall Management Division
Office of Defects Investigation
Enforcement