Part 573 Safety Recall Report 21V-619

Manufacturer Name : Hyundai Motor America
Submission Date : AUG 06, 2021
NHTSA Recall No. : 21V-619
Manufacturer Recall No. : 208

NHTSA
NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Hyundai Motor America
Address : 10550 Talbert Avenue
Fountain Valley CA 92708
Company phone : 800-633-5151

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 348,158
Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2017-2018 Hyundai Sonata
Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES
Body Style : 4-DOOR
Power Train : GAS
Descriptive Information : The subject vehicles include 274,376 certain model year 2017-2018 Hyundai Sonata vehicles produced on May 2, 2016 through July 18, 2018 by Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama ("HMMA") for sale in the U.S. market.
Production Dates : MAY 02, 2016 - JUL 18, 2018
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2016-2018 Hyundai Sonata Hybrid
Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES
Body Style : 4-DOOR
Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC
Descriptive Information : The subject vehicles include 18,147 certain model year 2016-2018 Hyundai Sonata Hybrid vehicles produced on March 2, 2016 through March 30, 2018 by Hyundai Motor Company ("HMC") for sale in the U.S. market.
Production Dates : MAR 02, 2016 - MAR 30, 2018
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 3 :	2018-2020 Hyundai Accent
Vehicle Type :	LIGHT VEHICLES
Body Style :	4-DOOR
Power Train :	GAS
Descriptive Information :	The subject vehicles include 51,849 certain model year 2018-2020 Hyundai Accent vehicles produced on September 8, 2017 through May 31, 2019 by Kia Motor Monterrey ("KMX") for sale in the U.S. market.
Production Dates :	SEP 08, 2017 - MAY 31, 2019
VIN Range 1 :	Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 4 :	2016-2017 Hyundai Azera
Vehicle Type :	LIGHT VEHICLES
Body Style :	4-DOOR
Power Train :	GAS
Descriptive Information :	The subject vehicles include 3,786 certain model year 2016-2017 Hyundai Azera vehicles produced on March 8, 2016 through November 21, 2016 by Hyundai Motor Company ("HMC") for sale in the U.S. market.
Production Dates :	MAR 08, 2016 - NOV 21, 2016
VIN Range 1 :	Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Description of Noncompliance :

Description of the Noncompliance :	The trunk latch pawl in the subject vehicles can thermally contract when exposed to high ambient temperature. While engaged under this condition, an attempt to release the pawl and open the trunk lid could result in damage to the pawl.
FMVSS 1 :	401 - Internal trunk release
FMVSS 2 :	NR
Description of the Safety Risk :	A damaged pawl could prevent opening of the trunk lid through actuation of the emergency trunk release, presenting risk of injury to an occupant locked in the trunk. As such, the involved vehicles might not comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 401, "Interior Trunk Release."
Description of the Cause :	The pawl material is insufficient at withstanding environmental conditions involving high ambient temperature.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	The trunk lid may require increased effort to open from the latched position.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 :	LATCH ASSY-TRUNK LID
Component Description :	Latch assembly for operation of trunk lid
Component Part Number :	81230-C1010, 81230-C1500, 81230-3V000

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	Pyeong Hwa Automotive
Address :	1032, Daechun dong Dalseo-gu Daegu Foreign States 42724
Country :	Korea, Republic of

Chronology :

June 2021
On June 16, Hyundai's North American Safety Office received a request from NHTSA to analyze a complaint received from a customer alleging the trunk of a model year 2017 Hyundai Sonata would not open. NASO's Data Review Committee conducted a preliminary investigation of the complaint noting that the incident trunk latch assembly's pawl sustained external damage and fractured. Citing the damaged pawl as a likely cause of the trunk's inability to open, NASO's DRC escalated the incident to the Technical Review Committee on June 21 for deeper analysis.

July 2021
NASO's TRC requested HMC to provide historical records involving manufacturing changepoints of the trunk latch assembly. HMC informed NASO that an increase in claims originating from high-temperature regions of the Middle East prompted an investigation in late 2017. The investigation resulted in "level-up" changes to improve the trunk latch assembly's pawl material and shape aimed at withstanding thermal contraction and potential breakage during attempts to disengage the pawl. Replication testing conducted by HMC at that time indicated that, while the trunk lid was able to be opened normally with a damaged pawl, the trunk lid became difficult to fully close in this condition. NASO's TRC noted that a damaged trunk latch pawl could affect full operation of the trunk's emergency release lever and requested HMC to investigate further.

On July 28, NASO reviewed the results of Hyundai's investigation with ODI. ODI confirmed its concern of the potential inability to open the trunk lid using the emergency release lever, which would not comply with the requirements set forth in FMVSS No. 401. Based on this information, NASO convened its North American Safety Decision Authority on July 30, 2021 and decided to file a new recall to address all affected Hyundai vehicles in the U.S. and Canada.

Hyundai is not aware of any related crashes, injuries, or fires to date.

Description of Remedy :

Description of Remedy Program :	All owners of the subject vehicles will be notified by first class mail with instructions to bring their vehicles to a Hyundai dealer to have the trunk latch assembly replaced. The remedy procedure will be performed at no charge. Hyundai will provide reimbursement to owners for repairs according to the plan submitted to the agency on May 16, 2018.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	The remedy trunk latch assembly pawl is produced with improved material increasing its resistance to thermal contraction. Additionally, the remedy pawl contains steel reinforcement to prevent damage and/or separation.
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	The steel reinforcement was added to the pawl as a running production change on October 13, 2017. The injected material was changed as a running production change on July 18, 2018.

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	Dealers/owners shall be notified beginning in early October 2021.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	OCT 01, 2021 - OCT 01, 2021
Planned Owner Notification Date :	OCT 01, 2021 - OCT 01, 2021

* NR - Not Reported