

**2016-2022MY Sorento, 2021-2023MY Sorento HEV, 2022-2023MY Sorento PHEV
and 2017-2022MY Sportage
Tow Hitch Harness
Basis of Safety Defect Determination 573.6(c)(6)**

April 20, 2022	Kia North America (Kia NA) Safety Office reviews field data associated with the Kia Genuine tow hitch harness accessory to identify potential allegations of fire for Kia models following escalation of similar issue associated with the 2020MY Telluride to its SEL. Kia NA Safety Office identifies several alleged tow hitch harness related fire incidents involving the Kia Sorento (UMa), including a 2016 Kia Sorento.
April 21, 2022	Kia NA Safety Office places the Kia Genuine trailer harness for the Sorento on automatic warranty part return.
April 27—May 9, 2022	Kia NA Safety Office meets with supplier to review collected part from the 2016 Sorento incident vehicle and discuss preliminary field data analysis.
May 6, 2022	Kia NA Safety Office escalates issue to SEL.
June 8, 2022	Kia NA Safety Office discusses issue with NHTSA during June monthly meeting and continues providing monthly updates.
July 13, 2022	Kia NA Safety Office retains third-party engineering firm and ships warranty returned parts to engineering firm for investigation.
July 20, 2022	Kia NA issues Technical Service Bulletin: Trailer Hitch Accessory Fuse Requirement (ELE261) to reiterate the use of the required 15-amp fuse when installing trailer hitch accessory.
July 21, 2022	Kia NA Safety Office provides update to NHTSA during July monthly meeting. Supplier conducts CT scan of 2016MY Sorento tow hitch harness module and identifies origin damage on the printed circuit board. Supplier begins evaluation to determine cause.
July 22, 2022	Kia NA Safety Office sends warranty returned and exemplar parts to third-party engineering firm for further analysis.
August 10, 2022	Kia NA Safety Office provides update to NHTSA during August monthly meeting.

September 6, 2022	Kia’s third-party engineering firm conducts various scans, x-rays, and fault recreation analysis and identifies chloride contamination on circuit boards of received parts.
September 7, 2022	Kia NA Safety Office conducts data analysis and identifies 3 confirmed vehicle fires and 30 localized melting incidents involving the 2016-2020MY Kia Sorento (UMa). [dates of receipt 8/27/2015-8/9/2022]
September 8-9, 2022	Supplier advises Kia NA Safety Office that the tow hitch harness module used in the 2016-2020MY Sorento (UMa) is also used in 2021-2022MY Sorento (MQ4a), the 2021-2023MY Sorento HEV, 2022-2023MY Sorento PHEV, and the 2017-2022MY Sportage. Kia NA Safety Office conducts field data analysis for these additional vehicles and identifies one (1) alleged vehicle fire and one (1) localized melting incident involving the 2021-2022MY Sorento (MQ4a). [dates of receipt 9/23/2021 & 9/1/2022]
September 12, 2022	Kia NA decides to recall certain 2016-2022MY Sorento, 2021-2023MY Sorento HEV, 2022-2023MY Sorento PHEV and 2017-2022MY Sportage vehicles equipped with the Kia Genuine tow hitch harness accessory. Three (3) confirmed vehicle fires and 30 localized melting incidents involving the 2016-2020MY Sorento (UMa) and one (1) alleged vehicle fire and one (1) localized melting incident involving the 2021-2022MY Sorento (MQ4a). No fires or localized melting involving the 2021-2023MY Sorento HEV, 2022-2023MY Sorento PHEV or 2017-2022MY Sportage. No fatalities, injuries, or crashes involving any of the subject vehicles.