



Kia America, Inc.
Corporate Headquarters
111 Peters Canyon Road, Irvine, CA 92606-1790 USA

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

NHTSA Recall Number: 23V594

This notice applies to your vehicle: **Insert VIN**

October 19, 2023

Dear Kia Optima, Optima Hybrid ("HEV"), or Optima Plug-In Hybrid ("PHEV") Vehicle Owner:

Kia has identified a defect in your vehicle which relates to a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS).

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act. Kia America, Inc. has decided that certain 2016-2018 MY Optima, 2017-2018 Optima HEV, and 2017-2018 Optima PHEV vehicles fail to conform to Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 401, "Interior Trunk Release." The defect can result in the trunk's interior emergency release becoming inoperative. The inability to exit the trunk increases the risk of injury. Our records indicate that you own or lease one of the affected vehicles.

What Is The Problem?

A crack can develop in the pawl of the trunk latch base subassembly, which can cause the trunk's interior emergency release lever to be inoperative. As a result, a person is inside the trunk compartment may not be able to exit the trunk. The inability to exit the trunk increases the risk of injury.

Kia Will Replace the Trunk Latch Base Subassembly With A New One Free of Charge At No Cost To You.

Kia dealers will replace the trunk latch base subassembly with a new one. This recall will be performed **free of charge at no cost to you**. The estimated time required to perform this recall will be approximately one (1) hour. We recommend scheduling a service appointment to minimize your inconvenience.

What Should You Do?

- In the interest of the safety of your passengers, as well as your own safety, contact your authorized Kia dealer to arrange for the recall to be performed on your vehicle.
- **WARNING: No one should be allowed to occupy the trunk at any time. The trunk is a very dangerous location in the event of a crash.**
- To find your nearest dealer, visit www.kia.com and click the "Find Dealer" button in the upper right corner ("Dealers" on a mobile device). You can also use the QR code below with your mobile device to access this information (*see the bottom of this letter for more information about QR code use*):



What If You Have Already Paid To Have This Situation Corrected?

If you have incurred expense to remedy this issue prior to the date of this notice, you may have the opportunity to obtain reimbursement for that expense. You may submit your receipts online to Kia via the Owners section of www.kia.com or mail your receipts with a copy of the attached Request for Reimbursement form directly to Kia for review and consideration:

**Kia Customer Care
Kia America, Inc.
P.O. Box 52410
Irvine, CA 92619-2410
1-800-333-4542**

Pursuant to the General Reimbursement Plan issued by Kia pursuant to Federal Regulation 49 CFR 573.13, Kia will use its best efforts to respond to your claim within sixty (60) days of receipt and at that time Kia may either accept or reject that claim or it may request more information to evaluate the claim.

Have You Changed Your Address Or Sold Your Kia?

If you have changed your home address, sold your Kia vehicle, or no longer own your vehicle, please complete the attached prepaid "Change of Address/Ownership" card and mail it to us. You can also contact the Kia Customer Care Center phone number listed below.

What If You Are A Vehicle Lessor?

Federal regulation requires that any vehicle lessor receiving this recall notice must forward a copy of this notice to the lessee within ten days.

What If You Have Other Questions?

If your dealer does not respond to your service request in a timely manner, we suggest that you call Kia's Customer Care Center at 1-800-333-4542. This number has TTY capability. If your dealer fails or is unable to remedy this defect without charge and within a reasonable amount of time, you may submit a complaint to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20590; or call the toll free Vehicle Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236 (TTY: 1-800-424-9153); or go to <http://www.safercar.gov>.

This action has been taken in the interest of your safety, and we regret any inconvenience this situation may cause you.

Sincerely,

Customer Care Department

QR Code Use:

- A QR Code is a square, 2-dimensional barcode that can be read by mobile devices loaded with an appropriate barcode or **QR Code Reader App**. The app reads the barcode image and then launches/uploads the specific information the code contains, such as URLs, text, photos, videos.
- With a mobile device, **download a QR Code Reader App**. With many devices, you can do this through an app store or marketplace.
- **Open the QR Code Reader App on your mobile device**. The app will utilize your device's camera. Center the code in the camera viewing area. With some apps, the URL or other information will automatically load when the code is recognized. For others, you may have to snap or take a picture of the QR code. Refer to the **QR Reader Code App instructions**.

