



U.S. Department
of Transportation

National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration

Part 573 Safety Recall Report

25V659

Manufacturer Name: Hyundai Motor America

Submission Date: Oct 02, 2025

NHTSA Recall No.: 25V659

Manufacturer Recall No.: 285

Manufacturer Information

Population

Manufacturer Name: Hyundai Motor America

Address: 10550 Talbert Avenue
Fountain Valley CA, 92708

Total number of potentially involved: 135,386

Estimated percentage with defect: 1%

Vehicle Information

Vehicle 1: 2024-2025 HYUNDAI SANTA FE

Product Category: Light Vehicles

Product Type: Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

Fuel / Propulsion: Spark Ignition Fuel

Production Dates: Dec 28, 2023 - Jul 07, 2025

Number of potentially involved: 135,386

Descriptive Information:

Based on manufacturing and sales records, the subject vehicles include certain model year 2024-2025 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles equipped with 2.5-liter turbocharged engines produced on the specified dates by Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama ("HMMA") for sale in the U.S. market.

Defect / Noncompliance Description

Description of the defect or noncompliance:

The starter motor assembly in the subject vehicles may have been assembled with a cover that was not fully seated over the starter motor's "B+" terminal. In certain crash scenarios involving varying degrees of engine compartment deformation, the exposed terminal could come into contact with the cooling fan assembly, potentially causing an electrical short.

FMVSS1:

FMVSS2:

Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:

An electrical short can increase the risk of an electrical fire.

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25V659**Description of the cause:**

The starter motor's terminal cover may have been insufficiently installed during vehicle assembly.

Identification of any warning that can occur:

None.

Component Manufacturer

Tier of Supplier:

Supplier Type: OEM

Name: Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama

Address: 700 Hyundai Blvd
Montgomery AL, 36105

Country: United States

Involved Components

Component Name 1: Wiring Assy-Battery

Component Description: Battery Wire Harness

Component Part Number: 91850R6020

Chronology

November 20, 2024 – NHTSA conducted a New Car Assessment Program (“NCAP”) front barrier crash test involving a model year 2024 Santa Fe vehicle. During post-test inspection, smoke was detected from the engine compartment, indicating potential thermal damage. NHTSA notified Hyundai Automotive Technical Center, Inc. (“HATCI”) of the test results. HATCI and HMC immediately began investigating possible reasons behind the thermal event.

December 5, 2024 – Hyundai's North America Safety Office (“NASO”) received a Speak Up for Safety Report (“SUFS”) regarding the prior NCAP test result and thermal incident and began monitoring HATCI/HMC investigation into potential causality.

January 21, 2025 – HATCI and HMC performed a joint inspection of the test vehicle at the test site, Calspan.

February 17, 2025 – HMC performed an examination of parts recovered from the test vehicle.

March 2025 – HMC and NASO continued to review and discuss the NCAP test findings. During an in-person meeting in Korea, HMC reviewed its investigation findings with NASO and indicated a potential shorting condition created with the starter motor and adjacent componentry within the engine compartment. An in-house testing plan, mirroring the NCAP test conditions, was developed to test various conditions of the starter motor and contact made with components in the engine compartment.

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April 23, 2025 – HMC shared bench test results that replicated a potential shorting mechanism through contact made between the exposed terminal of the starter motor and the cooling fan motor housing.

April 24, 2025 – NASO issued a Field Investigation Request (“FIR”) to survey post-production vehicles for fitment of the starter motor terminal cover. The survey results revealed a number of vehicles exhibited partial or no coverage of the terminal. Based on this information, Hyundai began reviewing HMMA manufacturing records pertaining to the terminal cover installation process.

May to June 2025 – NASO reviewed HMMA installation standard for the terminal cover. NASO conducted an on-site review of the assembly process and observed their current production condition noting no issues with the work standard.

July to August 2025 – NASO coordinated additional surveys of port inventory and followed-up with HMMA on their associated assembly processes after NASOs visit. HMC performed durability tests through various engine operations and road surface conditions to determine if the cover could become unseated over time. The test results revealed that a correctly installed terminal cover will remain in place.

September 10, 2025 – HMC provided confirmation that when the vehicle's starter motor terminal cover was installed correctly, a short circuit condition did not occur during testing.

September 25, 2025, based on a final review of NASO's investigation findings to date, NASO convened its North America Safety Decision Authority (“NASDA”) and decided to conduct a safety recall of potentially affected U.S. market vehicles.

As of the date of this filing, Hyundai is aware of one (1) U.S. NCAP test result with confirmed signs of a thermal event. There are no field incidents, crashes, injuries, or fatalities attributable to this condition in the U.S.

Related NHTSA Recall Number:

Description of Remedy

Remedy Type: Inspect, Repair

Consumer Advisories: ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

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 for inspection and reinstallation of the starter motor B+ terminal cover, if necessary. This remedy will be offered at no cost to owners for all affected vehicles, regardless of whether the affected vehicles are still covered under Hyundai's New Vehicle Limited Warranty. Additionally, Hyundai will provide owners of affected vehicles reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred to obtain a remedy for the recall condition in accordance with the reimbursement plan submitted to NHTSA on February 22, 2024.

How remedy component differs from recalled component:

The terminal cover is correctly installed over the starter motor terminal.

Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:

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In June 2025, an improved installation and inspection process was implemented for terminal cover installation.

Reimbursement Plan

Manufacturer used general reimbursement plan on file.

Recall Schedule

Description of recall schedule:

Dealers will be notified electronically by the specified dates.
Owners will be notified via certified mail by the specified dates.

Planned Dealer Notification Date: Dec 01, 2025 - Dec 01, 2025

☐ No Dealers

Planned Interim Owner Notification Date:

☐ No Owners

Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date: Dec 01, 2025 - Dec 01, 2025

☐ Phased Recall

Date when VIN will be searchable: Oct 04, 2025