




July 8, 2021

## ATTENTION: ALL DEALER PARTS & SERVICE MANAGERS

Kia America, Inc., is conducting a Product Improvement Campaign to perform a software update to the Engine Control Unit (ECU) to protect the engine from excessive connecting rod bearing damage on 2014-2016 MY Kia Optima Hybrid vehicles equipped with 2.4-liter MPI engines, manufactured from December 11, 2013 through July 22, 2015.

Kia has developed a Knock Sensor Detection System (KSDS) that detects vibrations indicating the onset of excessive connecting rod bearing wear. The KSDS is designed to alert the driver at an early stage of bearing wear before the occurrence of severe engine damage, including engine failure. If vibrations caused by bearing wear start to occur, the Malfunction Indicator Lamp (MIL)  will blink continuously, and the vehicle will be placed into Limp Home Mode. This will reduce further damage to the engine and ensure that the vehicle occupants are not exposed to the risk of a more severe engine failure. At that time, Diagnostic Trouble Code ("DTC") P1326, specific to the KSDS, will be recorded in the ECU. The vehicle can continue to be operated for a limited time in Limp Home Mode, but it will accelerate slowly and have a reduced maximum speed. Also, engine RPMs will be limited to approximately 1800-2000 RPM.

Kia will perform the software update on the Engine Control Unit ("ECU") to protect the engine from excessive connecting rod bearing damage. **Upon completion of the KSDS software update**, Kia will warrant any engine long block assembly repairs needed due to connecting rod bearing damage for 15 years/150,000 miles starting from the date the vehicle was first put into service, whichever occurs first, for both new and used vehicle owners.

The Technical Service Bulletin that provides vehicle repair procedures, affected VIN production range, and warranty claim information will be posted on the Kia Global Information System (KGIS) at [www.kiatechinfo.com](http://www.kiatechinfo.com) and the campaign documents will be posted on [kdealer.com](http://kdealer.com) in the week of **July 8, 2021**. A list of retail Kia Optima Hybrid vehicle owners affected by this campaign can be accessed on WEBDCS after the date of the owner notification.

Kia will begin the owner notification mailing for the affected 2014-2016 MY Kia Optima Hybrid vehicles on **July 13, 2021**. **We appreciate your support in encouraging customers to have this Product Improvement Campaign completed as quickly as possible.**

Please make certain the appropriate personnel in your dealership are familiar with the details of this campaign to ensure proper responses to customer inquiries and requests to have the campaign performed on their Kia Optima Hybrid vehicles. Be sure to remind your customers of the importance of following the vehicle's maintenance schedule and keeping maintenance records.

**LEGAL PRIVACY LIABILITY NOTICE:** Pursuant to the terms of the Dealer Sales and Service Agreement and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley federal consumer privacy act, you are required to keep confidential any and all information and documents provided to you by Kia America, Inc. or generated by you in the conduct of carrying out work under that Agreement regarding Kia vehicle purchasers and owners, including but not limited to warranty claim information. Kia dealers may use such owner information for the sole purpose of conducting and performing this safety recall campaign, and for no other purpose.

Your prompt attention in completing this update is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact your Kia District Parts and Service Manager.

Sincerely,

Kia Service Department

Enclosures