

573 Defect Information Report for Recall 180

Attachment A

Chronology of events leading up to the defect decision:

- In August 2018, NHTSA opened Defect Petition DP18-003 to investigate non-crash fires involving model year 2011-2014 Hyundai Sonata and Santa Fe vehicles. Hyundai Motor America (“HMA”) began discussing reports alleging this condition and sharing information in its recurring meeting with the NHTSA Office of Defect Investigations (“ODI”). During the same month, HMA learned through Hyundai Motor Company (“HMC”) that Kia Motor America (“KMA”) had identified some reports of engine fires on vehicles repaired under recall 17V-224. HMA began reviewing field information for potentially similar allegations while concurrently completing its response to DP18-003.
- On October 19, 2018, HMA submitted its first response to DP18-003 to NHTSA ODI.
- Beginning on October 22, 2018, HMA held weekly telephone conferences regarding vehicle fire inspections that have been or will be conducted in the future so that HMA and ODI could share inspection results and potential defect trends in real time. During these meetings, ODI confirmed that KMA had advised the agency that post-recall engine replacements could have been related to leaking engine oil or fuel. ODI also confirmed that KMA began focusing its investigation of post-recall engine fires on potential fuel leaking from the high pressure fuel line and fuel pump outlet area located in the engine compartment. HMA informed ODI that it regularly employs a team of dedicated fire investigators to inspect each reported vehicle fire and, as of this date, no non-crash fires confirming a fuel leak as the source had been found.
- On November 13, 2018, during an in-person meeting with HMA, ODI shared a video showing a vehicle with a condition of fuel leaking and/or spraying from the connection between the high pressure fuel line and fuel pump outlet on a Kia vehicle recently inspected by the agency. HMA again informed ODI that no non-crash fires confirming a fuel leak as the source had been found to date.
- On December 17, 2018, HMA met with HMC to discuss its investigation of post-recall engine fires involving potential fuel leaks. HMC informed HMA that misalignment and/or improper torquing of the high pressure fuel pipe to the fuel pump outlet could occur during engine replacement if certain steps in the remedy procedure are not followed in the correct sequence. Based on this information, on December 20, 2018, Hyundai decided to conduct a voluntary safety recall to address the condition in the subject vehicles.
- Hyundai is not aware of any reports of fires, accidents, or injuries attributed to this condition.