Part 573 Safety Recall Report 21V-844

Manufacturer Name : Kia Motors America
Submission Date : NOV 09, 2021
NHTSA Recall No. : 21V-844
Manufacturer Recall No. : SC218

Manufacturer Information :

Manufacturer Name : Kia Motors America
Address : 111 Peters Canyon Road
Irvine CA 92606
Company phone : 800-333-4542

Population :

Number of potentially involved : 10,731
Estimated percentage with defect : 1 %

Vehicle Information :

Vehicle 1 : 2017-2018 Kia Optima Hybrid (HEV)
Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES
Body Style : ALL
Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC
Descriptive Information : All 2017-2018 model year Optima Hybrid (HEV) vehicles manufactured from 6/27/2016 through 11/21/2017 (8,311 vehicles). The recall population was determined by a review of vehicle production records. The vehicles subject to this recall were not produced in VIN order. Customers seeking information about their specific vehicle will be referred to Kia's Consumer Assistance Center or their Kia dealer.
Production Dates : JUN 27, 2016 - NOV 21, 2017
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Vehicle 2 : 2017-2018 Kia Optima Plug-in Hybrid (PHEV)
Vehicle Type : LIGHT VEHICLES
Body Style : ALL
Power Train : HYBRID ELECTRIC
Descriptive Information : All 2017-2018 Optima Plug-in Hybrid (PHEV) vehicles manufactured from 8/25/2016 through 4/27/2018 (2,420 vehicles). The recall population was determined by a review of vehicle production records. The vehicles subject to this recall were not produced in VIN order. Customers seeking information about their specific vehicle will be referred to Kia's Consumer Assistance Center or their Kia dealer.
Production Dates : AUG 25, 2016 - APR 27, 2018
VIN Range 1 : Begin : NR End : NR ☐ Not sequential

Description of Defect :

Description of the Defect :	The connecting rod bearing can become damaged for different reasons. If the connecting rod bearing becomes damaged, abnormal knocking noise from the engine can occur and/or illumination of the oil pressure warning light. If the vehicle continues to be driven in this condition, engine damage can occur, thereby increasing the risk of an engine stall and/or in the worst case, a fire due to a connecting rod puncturing the engine block allowing engine oil to leak onto a hot exhaust. A cause resulting from a manufacturing or design defect has not been identified. However, Kia is conducting this recall as a preventative measure to mitigate any unreasonable fire risk due to engine damage.
FMVSS 1 :	NR
FMVSS 2 :	NR
Description of the Safety Risk :	A vehicle stall increases the risk of crash. A fire increases the risk of injury.
Description of the Cause :	Undetermined. However, a broken connecting rod can puncture the engine block and cause a fire.
Identification of Any Warning that can Occur :	1) Abnormal knocking noise from the engine; 2) Reduced motive power; 3) Illumination of the oil pressure warning light; and 4) burning smell, smoke.

Involved Components :

Component Name 1 :	[ENGINE ASSY-SUB]
Component Description :	[SUB ENGINE ASSY]
Component Part Number :	[189N1-2EH00]

Supplier Identification :

Component Manufacturer

Name :	[KIA]
Address :	[95, Kiajadongcha-ro, Ujeong-eup] [Hwaseong-si, Gyeonggi-do] Foreign States [18571]
Country :	Korea, Republic of

Chronology :

See attached document titled “2017-2018MY Optima HEV/PHEV Engine Compartment Fire Chronology”

Description of Remedy :

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 Kia dealer. In an effort to mitigate a potential fire risk, dealers will be instructed to perform an engine test to determine the existence of any connecting rod bearing damage, and if necessary, replace the engine. Dealers will also be instructed to install a Knock Sensor Detection System (KSDS) software that will prevent engine damage from potential excessive connecting rod bearing wear. Upon completion of the KSDS software installation, Kia will extend the warranty coverage to 15 years/150,000 miles, whichever occurs first, for engine long block assembly repairs needed due to connecting rod bearing damage. Kia will reimburse owners for repair expenses already incurred pursuant to Kia's General Reimbursement Plan filed May 11, 2020.
How Remedy Component Differs from Recalled Component :	N/A
Identify How/When Recall Condition was Corrected in Production :	N/A

Recall Schedule :

Description of Recall Schedule :	Dealer notification will begin and end on 11/22/2021, and owner notification will begin and end on 11/29/2021.
Planned Dealer Notification Date :	NOV 22, 2021 - NOV 22, 2021
Planned Owner Notification Date :	NOV 29, 2021 - NOV 29, 2021

* NR - Not Reported