2023MY Niro EV & 2014MY EV9
Gear Drive Unit (GDU) Chronology
Basis of Safety Defect Determination 573.6(c)(6)

March 11, 2024	Kia Corporation (Kia HQ) informs Kia North America (Kia NA) Safety Office of two (2) customer complaints in the global market of noise while driving from the Gear Drive Unit (GDU) involving 2023MY Niro EV vehicles. Kia HQ provides Kia NA Safety Office with preliminary investigation results. Returned parts show differential gear bolts within the GDU insufficiently torqued resulting in noise and damage to GDU housing. Kia HQ's review of supplier torque data indicates insufficient torque of differential gear bolts in certain GDUs in Niro EV and EV9 vehicles. Kia HQ confirms no related EV9 claims in global market. Kia NA Safety Office requests Kia HQ evaluate any potential loss of motive power associated with condition.
March 20, 2024—April 2, 2024	Kia HQ conducts vehicle testing of a Niro EV GDU with artificially loosened differential gear bolts. Kia HQ shares results with Kia NA Safety Office and identifies loosened differential bolts will result in drivetrain noise. As bolts are loosened, damage to GDU housing can occur and a potential loss of motive power may result. Kia NA Safety Office monitors field data.
April 9, 2024	Kia HQ confirms differential lockup is also a potential consequence if the vehicle continues to be operated in this condition. Kia HQ provides potentially affected VINs based on a review of vehicle production and supplier records.
April 10, 2024	Kia NA Safety Office field data analysis confirms no incidents in the U.S. associated with condition.
April 10, 2024	Kia NA decides to recall certain 2023MY Niro EV and certain 2024MY EV9 vehicles. No injuries, crashes, or fatalities.