



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

March 13, 2012

MR. ROBERT BABCOCK  
SENIOR MANAGER,  
HYUNDAI-KIA AMERICAN TECHNICAL CENTER, INC  
6800 GEDDES ROAD  
SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP, MI 48198

NVS-215et  
12V-098

SUBJECT: CENTER REAR SEAT BELT/FMVSS 208/ PETITION

DEAR MR. BABCOCK:

This letter serves to acknowledge Hyundai-Kia America Technical Center, Inc's (Hyundai-Kia) notification to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) of a noncompliance with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard No. 208, "Occupant crash protection," on the products described below for which a safety recall campaign shall be conducted pursuant to Federal law.

Please review the following information to ensure that it conforms to your records as this information is being made available to the public. If the information does not agree with your records, please contact us immediately to discuss your concerns.

**Makes/Models/Model Years:**  
HYUNDAI/SONATA HYBRID/2011-2012

**NHTSA Campaign Number:** 12V-098

**Mfg's Report Date:** March 8, 2012

**Components:** SEAT BELTS

**Potential Number of Units Affected:** 14,728

**Summary:**

CERTAIN MODEL YEAR 2011-2012 HYUNDAI SONATA HYBRID VEHICLES, MANUFACTURED FROM DECEMBER 2, 2010, THROUGH MARCH 7, 2012, EQUIPPED WITH A CENTER REAR SEAT BELT INCORPORATING A RELEASE MECHANISM THAT DETACHES BOTH THE LAP AND SHOULDER PORTION AT THE LOWER ANCHORAGE POINT. THESE VEHICLES FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY STANDARD NO. 208, "OCCUPANT CRASH PROTECTION."

**Consequence:**

SEE NOTES:

**Remedy:**

DEALERS WERE NOTIFIED OF THE NONCOMPLIANCE AND A STOP SALE WAS ISSUED ON MARCH 8, 2012.

**Notes:**

HYUNDAI DEALERS WILL REPLACE THE CENTER REAR SEAT BELTS IN APPROXIMATELY 1,633 SONATA HYBRID VEHICLES CURRENTLY IN DEALER INVENTORY WITH CENTER REAR SEAT BELTS THAT ARE NOT DETACHABLE FROM THE LOWER ANCHORAGE POINT PRIOR TO DELIVERY TO CUSTOMERS.

FOR THE APPROXIMATELY 13,095 VEHICLES THAT HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO CUSTOMERS, HYUNDAI MOTOR COMPANY INTENDS TO FILE A PETITION FOR AN EXEMPTION FROM THE RECALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY ACT ON THE BASIS THAT THE NONCOMPLIANCE DESCRIBED IS INCONSEQUENTIAL AS IT RELATES TO MOTOR VEHICLE SAFETY. THEREFORE, THE MANUFACTURER IS NOT OBLIGATED TO CONDUCT AN OWNER NOTIFICATION AND REMEDY CAMPAIGN UNTIL NHTSA HAS RESOLVED THIS PETITION. IF THE PETITION IS DENIED, THE MANUFACTURER WILL BE NOTIFIED AND MUST THEN UNDERTAKE ITS NOTIFICATION AND REMEDY CAMPAIGN OBLIGATIONS.

Under 49 U.S.C. § 30112(a), it is illegal for anyone, including a manufacturer, distributor, dealer, or retailer to sell an item of equipment or vehicle that fails to comply with all applicable Federal motor vehicle safety standards.

Your contact for this recall will be Edison Thompson who may be reached by phone at 1-202-366-9525, or by email at [Edison.Thompson@dot.gov](mailto:Edison.Thompson@dot.gov), or through the office email at [RMD.ODI@dot.gov](mailto:RMD.ODI@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Timian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jennifer Timian  
Chief, Recall Management Division  
Office of Defects Investigation  
Enforcement