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Tuesday, November 04, 2003

03V-496 ① of ⑤

Mr. Kenneth Weinstein
Associate Administrator for Safety Assurance
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Defect Information Report

Dear Mr. Weinstein:

Pursuant to Part 573 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Hyundai of Puerto Rico is submitting information concerning a recall that is being voluntarily initiated. Specific information as required by Section 573.6 is as follows:

573.6(c)(1)

Manufacturer - Hyundai Motor Company

Distributor - Hyundai of Puerto Rico

573.6(c)(2)

Model year 2001, 2002 and 2003 Hyundai Elantra vehicles produced beginning June 30, 2000 through December 15, 2002 and model year 2002 and 2003 Hyundai Tiburon vehicles produced beginning August 10, 2001 through February 15, 2003.

573.6(c)(3)

Approximately 277,687 model year 2001, 2002 and 2003 Hyundai Elantra vehicles produced beginning June 30, 2000 through December 15, 2002 and approximately 34,605 model year 2002 and 2003 Hyundai Tiburon vehicles produced beginning August 10, 2001 through February 15, 2003.

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573.6(c)(4)

All model year 2001, 2002 and 2003 Hyundai Elantra vehicles produced beginning June 30, 2000 through December 15, 2002 and model year 2002 and 2003 Hyundai Tiburon vehicles produced beginning August 10, 2001 through February 15, 2003 are affected.

573.6(c)(5)

The brake tubes for the rear brakes are located so that a portion of the tubes passes behind the front suspension crossmember. Two steering gearbox-mounting brackets are welded to the cross member. On vehicles equipped with Antilock Brakes (ABS), the rear brake tubes may contact both steering gearbox mounting brackets. On vehicles that are not equipped with ABS, the rear brake tubes may contact only the left steering gearbox mounting bracket. Contact between the rear brake tubes and the steering gearbox mounting brackets may result in rear brake tube wear and corrosion.

573.6(c)(6)

Hyundai Motor Company received information in late November 2002 that rear brake tube contact with a steering gearbox mounting bracket was noticed on a pilot test vehicle produced at the Taiwan assembly plant. During late November through mid December 2002, Hyundai Motor Company conducted inspections to determine if the condition occurred on other vehicles. On December 16, 2002, Hyundai made a change in production for the Elantra and added two plastic brake tube clips to reposition the rear brake tubes and prevent contact with the steering gearbox brackets. In late December 2002, Hyundai Motor Company developed plans to evaluate the use of brake tube clips and the application of anti-corrosion material as a potential repair procedure to be applied to vehicles that are in use in the field, if a repair was necessary. During the period from late January 2002 through March 2003, a new brake tube clip design was developed, tooling for the brake tube clip was produced, and testing was conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of anti-corrosion material. During April through June 2003, potential material supply sources were investigated.

On July 1, Hyundai Motor Company provided notice that it decided to conduct a recall in the United States to reposition the rear brake tubes so they do not contact the steering gearbox mounting brackets, install brake tube clips to control the location of the rear brake tubes, and to apply anti-corrosion material to the rear brake tubes in the areas where contact with the steering gearbox mounting brackets may have occurred. Hyundai is not aware of any accidents or injuries related to this condition.

573.6(c)(8)

All owners of record of affected vehicles will be contacted by first class mail and instructed to bring their vehicles to Hyundai dealers. The rear brake tubes will be repositioned, brake tube clips will be installed to control the position of the rear brake tubes and anti-corrosion material will be applied in the areas where contact with the steering gearbox mounting brackets may have occurred.

Hyundai anticipates that this recall campaign will be initiated during the third quarter of 2003 and will be completed in 12 weekly mailings.

Repairs related to the rear brake tubes of all vehicles affected by this recall have been covered for 3 years or 36,000 miles under Hyundai's vehicle limited warranty. As it is unlikely that owners of these 2001, 2002 and 2003 model year vehicles would have incurred expenses for this warranted repair or for replacement of the rear brake tubes as a result of this condition, Hyundai believes that it is not necessary, and should not be required, to provide notification regarding reimbursement under section 577.11.

573.6(c)(9)

The Technical Service Bulletin containing the service procedure for repositioning the rear brake tubes, installing brake tube clips to control the position of the rear brake tubes and applying anti-corrosion material in the areas where contact with the steering gearbox mounting brackets may have occurred will be provided to NHTSA when available. Other relevant communications will also be forwarded when they are available.

573.6(c)(10)

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached.

573.6(c)(11)

Hyundai has assigned "Campaign 061" as the designation for this campaign.

Sincerely,


Rafael Arzuaga
Parts & Service Director, HDPR

Attachments: 1

AFFECTED HYUNDAI VEHICLES:

- 2001 TO 2003 ELANTRA
- 2003 TIBURON



HYUNDAI OF PUERTO RICO
Box 182215
San Juan, PR, 00918-2215

Date

CODE
CUSTOMER
ADDRESS1
ADDRESS2
ADDRESS3

DRAFT

03V-496 ④ of ⑤

RE : **IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL NOTIFICATION**
(Brake Tube Wear and Corrosion – Recall no. xxx-xxx.xx)

VIN : VIN

Dear 2003 Hyundai Vehicle Owner:

This notice is sent to you in accordance with the requirements of the **National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act**. Hyundai of Puerto Rico has decided that a defect, which relates to motor vehicle safety, exists in certain Hyundai vehicles started above.

What is the problem?

The brake tubes of the rear brakes are located so that a portion of the tubes passes behind the front suspension crossmember. Two steering gearbox-mounting brackets are welded to the crossmember. On vehicles equipped with Antilock Brakes (ABS), the rear brake tubes may contact both steering gearbox mounting brackets. On vehicles that are not equipped with ABS, the rear brake tubes may contact only the left steering gearbox mounting bracket. Contact between the rear brake tubes and the steering gearbox mounting brackets may result in rear brake tube wear and corrosion.

Severe rear brake tube wear and corrosion may result in brake fluid leakage. Brake fluid leakage may result in reduced braking capability in the portion of the dual diagonal braking system that contains the leaking brake tube. **Reduced braking capability may result in vehicle crash.**

What should you do?

We urge you to call your Hyundai dealer to schedule an appointment to have this work performed as soon as possible. If you have already encountered the problem described above and you have paid for the repairs, please call Hyundai de Puerto Rico at 1-800-981-0452 for counsel on a possible reimbursement.

What will Hyundai do?

To ensure that your vehicle does not experience brake fluid leakage as a result of rear brake tube wear or corrosion, the Hyundai dealer will reposition the rear brake tubes so they do not contact the steering gearbox mounting brackets, install brake tube clips to control the location of the rear brake tubes, and apply anti-corrosion material to the rear brake tubes in the areas where contact with the steering gearbox mounting brackets may have occurred. The procedure will be performed at no charge to you. You should plan to leave your vehicle at your Hyundai dealer for a half day to have this service performed. Hyundai urges you to have this repair made as soon as possible.

What if you have other questions?

If you have any difficulty having this repair performed, we recommend that you call the Hyundai Customer Assistance Center at 1-800-833-5161. If you are still not satisfied that we have remedied this situation without charge, and within a reasonable amount of time, you may wish to write to the Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20590 or call their toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at 1-888-327-4236.

Notice to Lessors: If you are a lessor receiving this recall notice of vehicles involved in this recall as of the date of this letter, you have an obligation under Federal Law, 49 CFR Part 577, to forward the lessee of the above referenced vehicle with a copy of this letter by first class mail within ten days of receipt. You must also maintain a record identifying the lessee to whom you sent a copy of this letter, the date you sent it, and the VIN of the subject vehicle.

We urge your attention to this safety matter.

Cordially,

Rafael Arzuaga
Parts & Service Director, HPR