

SC083—“BASIS FOR DEFECT DETERMINATION”

Chronology of Principal Events

In early June 2010, KMA identified a CA report of wiring in an Advanced Lighting Speaker in a 2010 Kia Soul igniting. As a result, KMA checked prior records and determined that two other incidents had occurred in April. At that time, KMA reported this to KMC, which met with the wiring harness supplier during the following week.

KMC conducted inspections of Soul vehicles in Korea looking for evidence of a wiring issue. KMC also checked the wiring on its other models and determined the 2011 Sorento Interior Accent Illumination had the same type of wiring harness and advised KMA to monitor field information for the 2011 Sorento.

Throughout the month of June, KMC and the supplier conducted quality inspections of supplier parts stocks, Soul vehicles at KMC and in Korean ports and then at U.S. ports. Starting in late June and continuing periodically during July, KMC and the supplier conducted various testing to try to create duplicate conditions which might lead to excessive heat buildup. In August, KMC conducted an evaluation of the supplier's manufacturing processes to determine specific potential causes and solutions.

All information was assembled and evaluated, with the indication that a very small percentage of all such Soul and Sorento models had the potential to have wiring soldering which might permit excessive heat buildup under specific circumstances.

The 2010 Soul had ceased production on June 8, 2010 and, due to normal product evolution, the 2011 Soul had had a different wiring harness. It was also determined that certain wiring harnesses in the 2011 Sorento had the potential to experience a similar issue.

KMC incorporated an improved wiring harness for the 2011 Sorento starting with the July 31, 2010 production. On August 23, 2010, KMC concluded that less than 1% of the wiring harnesses of the subject Soul's and Sorento's might have been improperly soldered, but that the available information warranted a safety recall.

Summary of Warranty Claims, Field or Service Reports

There is no report of accidents or injuries as a result of the condition for the 2010 Soul or the 2011 Sorento.

The background field information of all types on the wiring harness which was evaluated included:

For the 2010 Kia Soul, 28 consumer assistance case center reports, 23 warranty claims, 14 technical assistance case center reports were evaluated. No field reports were received.

For the 2011 Kia Sorento, 10 consumer assistance case center reports, 18 warranty claims and 9 technical assistance case center reports were evaluated. No field reports were received.