



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

## Part 573 Safety Recall Report

## 25V549

**Manufacturer Name:** Hyundai Motor America

**Submission Date:** Aug 25, 2025

**NHTSA Recall No.:** 25V549

**Manufacturer Recall No.:** 281

### Manufacturer Information

### Population

**Manufacturer Name:** Hyundai Motor America

**Address:** 10550 Talbert Avenue  
Fountain Valley CA, 92708

**Total number of potentially involved:** 29

**Estimated percentage with defect:** 3.4%

### Vehicle Information

**Vehicle 1:** 2025-2026 HYUNDAI SANTA FE

**Product Category:** Light Vehicles

**Product Type:** Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

**Fuel / Propulsion:** Spark Ignition Fuel

**Production Dates:** Feb 05, 2025 - Aug 07, 2025

**Number of potentially involved:** 7

**Descriptive Information:**

Based on manufacturing and sales records, the subject vehicles include 7 model year 2025-2026 Hyundai Santa Fe vehicles equipped with 2.5L Theta-3 Turbocharged engines and produced on the specified dates by Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama ("HMMA") in Alabama for sale in the U.S. market.

**Vehicle 2:** 2025-2026 HYUNDAI TUCSON

**Product Category:** Light Vehicles

**Product Type:** Multipurpose Passenger Vehicle

**Fuel / Propulsion:** Spark Ignition Fuel

**Production Dates:** Feb 18, 2025 - Aug 08, 2025

**Number of potentially involved:** 22

**Descriptive Information:**

Based on manufacturing and sales records, the subject vehicles include 22 model year 2025-2026 Hyundai Tucson vehicles equipped with 2.5L Theta-3 engines and produced on the specified dates by Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama ("HMMA") in Alabama for sale in the U.S. market.

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## Defect / Noncompliance Description

**Description of the defect or noncompliance:**

The engine connecting rods in the subject vehicles may have been installed with low torque on the connecting rod bolts during engine assembly. Connecting rods that have been installed with low torque could result in abnormal knocking noise from the engine and/or illumination of the oil pressure warning light. If the vehicle is continually operated with a loose connecting rod, the engine could become damaged and eventually stall the vehicle during operation.

**FMVSS1:****FMVSS2:****Description of the safety risk, including crash, fire, death, injury:**

A vehicle stall at highway speeds can increase the risk of a crash. In limited instances, a damaged connecting rod could puncture the engine block and cause engine oil to leak, which, in the presence of hot surfaces in the engine compartment, could increase the risk of a fire.

**Description of the cause:**

Certain engine assemblies might not have been inspected for proper torque tightening due to an error in the visual/torque inspection station loading process.

**Identification of any warning that can occur:**

- a. Abnormal (knocking) noise from engine
- b. Reduced motive power and/or hesitation
- c. Illumination of the "Check Engine" warning lamp
- d. Illumination of engine oil pressure warning lamp
- e. Burning smell, oil leaking, smoke

## Component Manufacturer

**Tier of Supplier:** Tier 1**Supplier Type:** OEM**Name:** Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama**Address:** 700 Hyundai Blvd  
Montgomery AL, 36105**Country:** United States

## Involved Components

**Component Name 1:** Engine Assy-Sub

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**Component Description:** 2.5T Theta 3 GDI Engine (2WD/4WD MX5a)  
**Component Part Number:** 26HS12SK00

**Component Name 2:** Engine Assy-Sub  
**Component Description:** 2.5T Theta 3 GDI Engine (2WD/4WD MX5a)  
**Component Part Number:** 24HS12SK00

**Component Name 3:** Engine Assy-Sub  
**Component Description:** 2.5L GDI Theta 3 Engine (2WD/4WD NX4a)  
**Component Part Number:** 12HS12SK00

## Chronology

### August 2025

On August 15, 2025, Hyundai Motor N.A.'s North America Safety Office ("NASO") was notified by HMMA of an issue involving low-torqued retention bolts for the connecting rods used in certain 2025-2026 model year Santa Fe and Tucson vehicles produced for the U.S. containing 2.5L standard and turbocharged engines. HMMA informed NASO that it identified 29 affected vehicles in the U.S. NASO began investigating by pulling market data for any trending behavior and inquiring technical details surrounding HMMA's investigation.

Based on its findings, NASO convened its North America Safety Decision Authority ("NASDA") on August 18, 2025, and decided to conduct a safety recall of vehicles affected by the low-torque condition in the U.S. market.

As of the date of this filing, Hyundai has not received any reports of incidents involving crashes, fires, or fatalities from affected vehicles in the U.S. market.

**Related NHTSA Recall Number:**

## Description of Remedy

**Remedy Type:** Replace

**Consumer Advisories:** ☐ Do Not Drive ☐ Park Outside

### **Description of remedy program:**

All owners of the subject vehicles will be notified by first class mail with instructions to bring their vehicle to a Hyundai dealer for replacement of the engine. This remedy will be offered at no cost to owners for all affected vehicles, regardless of whether the affected vehicles are still covered under Hyundai's New Vehicle Limited Warranty. Additionally, Hyundai will provide owners of affected vehicles

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reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses incurred to obtain a remedy for the recall condition in accordance with the reimbursement plan submitted to NHTSA on February 22, 2024.

**How remedy component differs from recalled component:**

The remedy engine contains connecting rods that were installed with the correct torque for sufficient retention.

**Identify how/when recall condition was corrected in production:**

The logic controller for the visual/torque inspection process was reprogrammed on August 12, 2025, with new protocol.

## Reimbursement Plan

Manufacturer used general reimbursement plan on file.

## Recall Schedule

**Description of recall schedule:**

Dealers will be notified electronically by the specified dates.  
Owners will be notified by certified mail by the specified dates.

**Planned Dealer Notification Date:** Oct 24, 2025 - Oct 24, 2025

☐ No Dealers

**Planned Interim Owner Notification Date:**

☐ No Owners

**Planned Remedy Owner Notification Date:** Oct 24, 2025 - Oct 24, 2025

☐ Phased Recall

**Date when VIN will be searchable:** Aug 27, 2025